Alice & Zoroku

story & art by
TETSUYA IMAI

1

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KOOOO...
"I SHOULD SEE THE GARDEN FAR BETTER,"
SAID ALICE TO HER-SELF...
PICH
"IF I COULD GET TO THE TOP OF THAT HILL."
FRROAR
WH
LEWIS CARROLL, THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS, CHAPTER 2.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
OO
OSH

Alice & Zoroku 1
story & art by TETSUYA IMAI
Chapter.1
The Red Queen Escapes
FROAAAR

Chapter.1
The Red Queen Escapes

Alice & Zoroku 1

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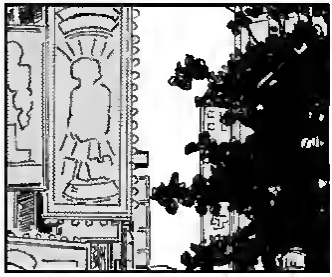
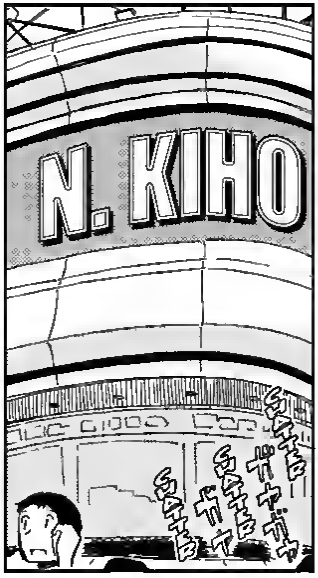
FRROAAAR
ヨ オ オ オ オ
オ
CCLLAD
ズ
ビ ュ オ
SHROOO
オ オ
PACH

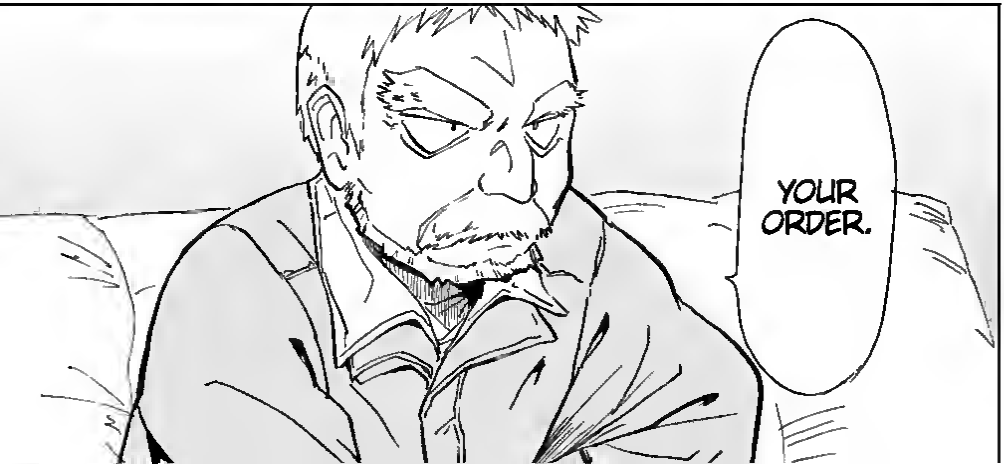
VRRRRAAAM
RRRR
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
VROOM...
BUSTLE

WHEEE...



CLANG
HUMM
Shinjuku Batteiko

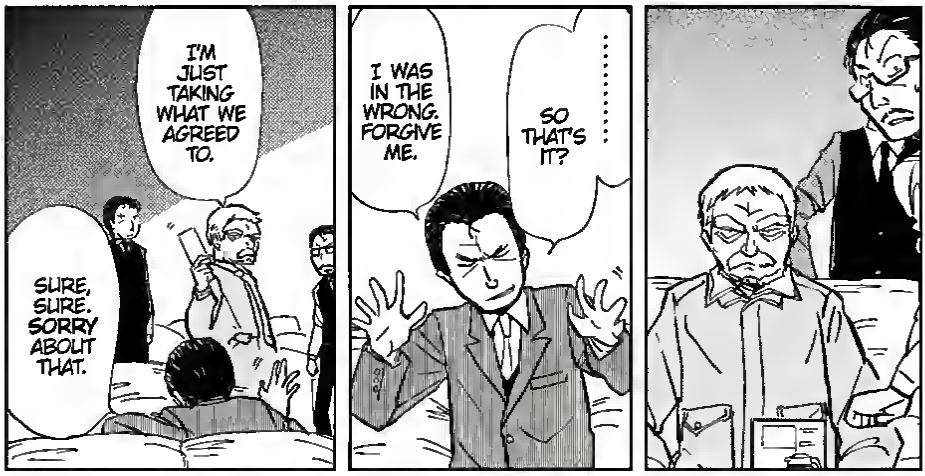

N. KIHO
SKATE
SKATE
SKATE


YOUR ORDER.

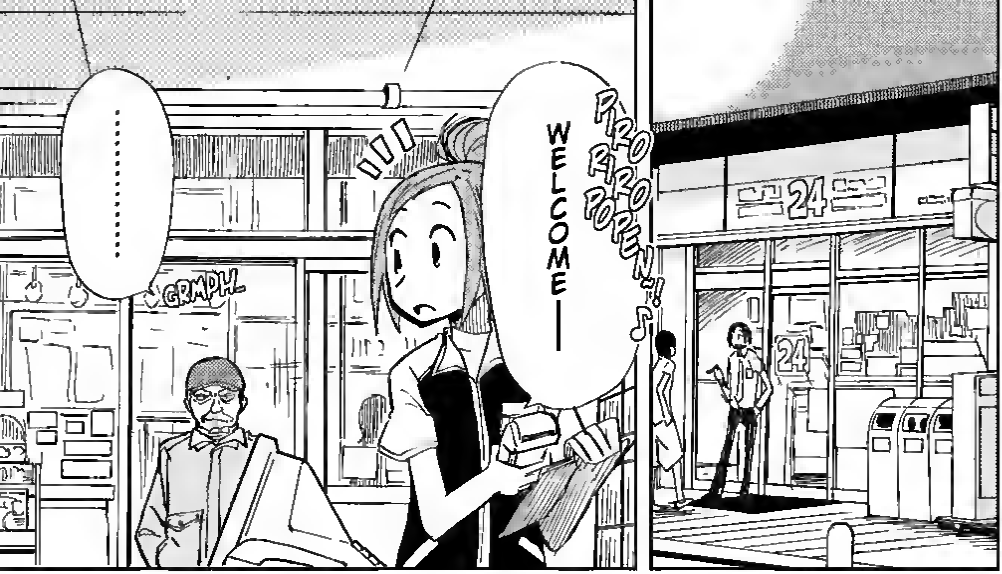
.....
CLNK
STEEL POT
INDEED, IT IS.
STEEL POT
BEAUTIFUL WORK, KASHI-MURA-SAN.
I'M GRATE-FUL.
NO ONE SAW YOU, DID THEY?
NO.
I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO BRING IT HERE IN THIS SPECIAL PACKAGING.
STEEL POT
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A MAN WORK.
STEEL POT
HEH HEH... WELL, THEY DO SAY THAT TO FOOL YOUR ENEMIES, YOU MUST FOOL YOUR FRIENDS FIRST.
THIS HERE--MY WHOLE LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, YOU KNOW.

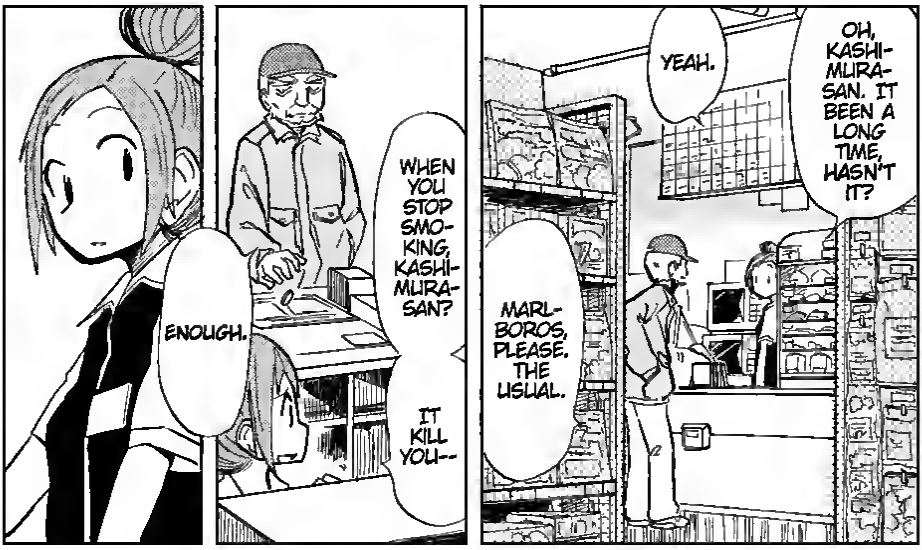
I BELIEVE IN YOUR WORK, KASHI-MURA-SAN. I'VE GOT NO REGRETS.
...WITH THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER THING, I JUST HAD TO GO THROUGH YOU.
WHEEZE
I COULD'VE HAD ONE OF OUR GUYS DO IT, BUT...
FLOP
YES, SIR.
HEY.
THAT'S A LOT MORE THAN--
.....
SMOOSH
SAY, KASHI-MURA-SAN... YOU SEE, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THERE'S A BIG JOB COMING IN FROM THE MAIN FAMILY, AND...
GLARE
I'M JUST SHOWING YOU MY APPRE-CIATION. TAKE IT.

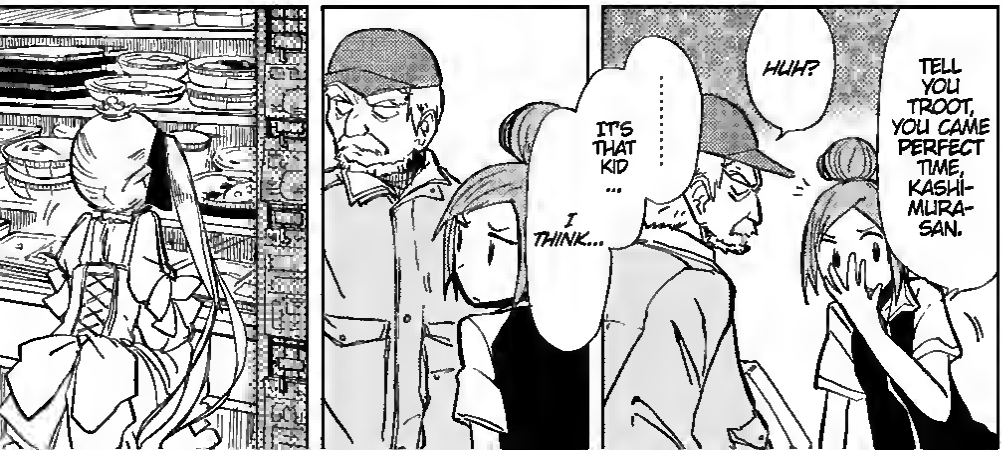
I TOOK ON THIS JOB AS A PERSONAL FAVOR...
BUT I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING TOO FRIENDLY WITH THE LIKES OF YOU.
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YA OLD GEEZER?! WATCH HOW YOU ACT TOWARDS SAWA-
SHUT UP, FOOL!!


SO THAT'S IT?
.....
I WAS IN THE WRONG. FORGIVE ME.
I'M JUST TAKING WHAT WE AGREED TO.
SURE, SURE. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

OH, IT'S KASHIMURA-SAN!
HEY THERE! WORKING?
YEAH.


WELCOME—
PIRO RIRO PORE~!♪
GRMPH.
24
24


ENOUGH.
WHEN YOU STOP SMO-KING, KASHI-MURA-SAN?
IT KILL YOU--
MARL-BOROS, PLEASE. THE USUAL.
YEAH.
OH, KASHI-MURA-SAN. IT BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?


I THINK...
IT'S THAT KID ...
HUH?
TELL YOU TROOT, YOU CAME PERFECT TIME, KASHI-MURA-SAN.

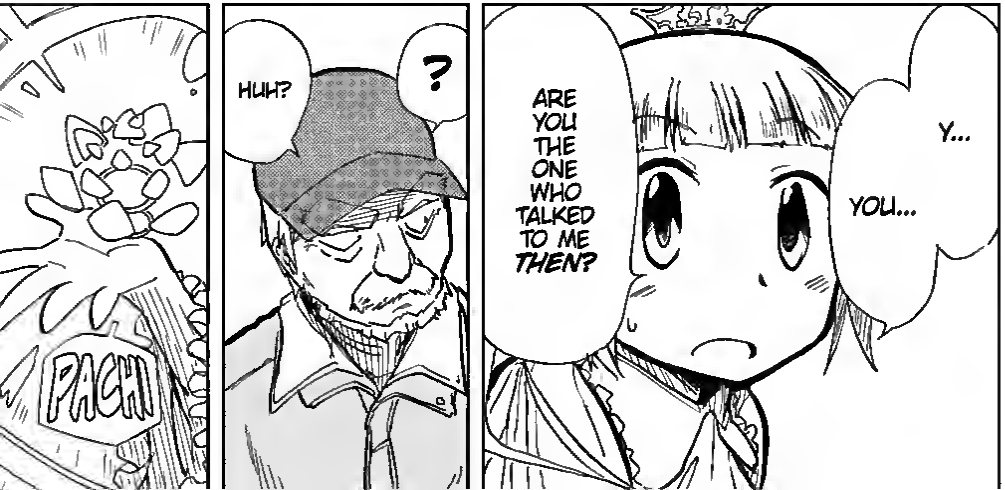
.....
Nagoya
Ankake Spaghetti
.....
WHAT? IT'S JUST A KID, RIGHT?
RIGH'? SHE HERE THIRTY MINUTES ALREADY.
THIS NO PLACE FOR KID, YOU KNOW. IT'S REELEE STRANGE.

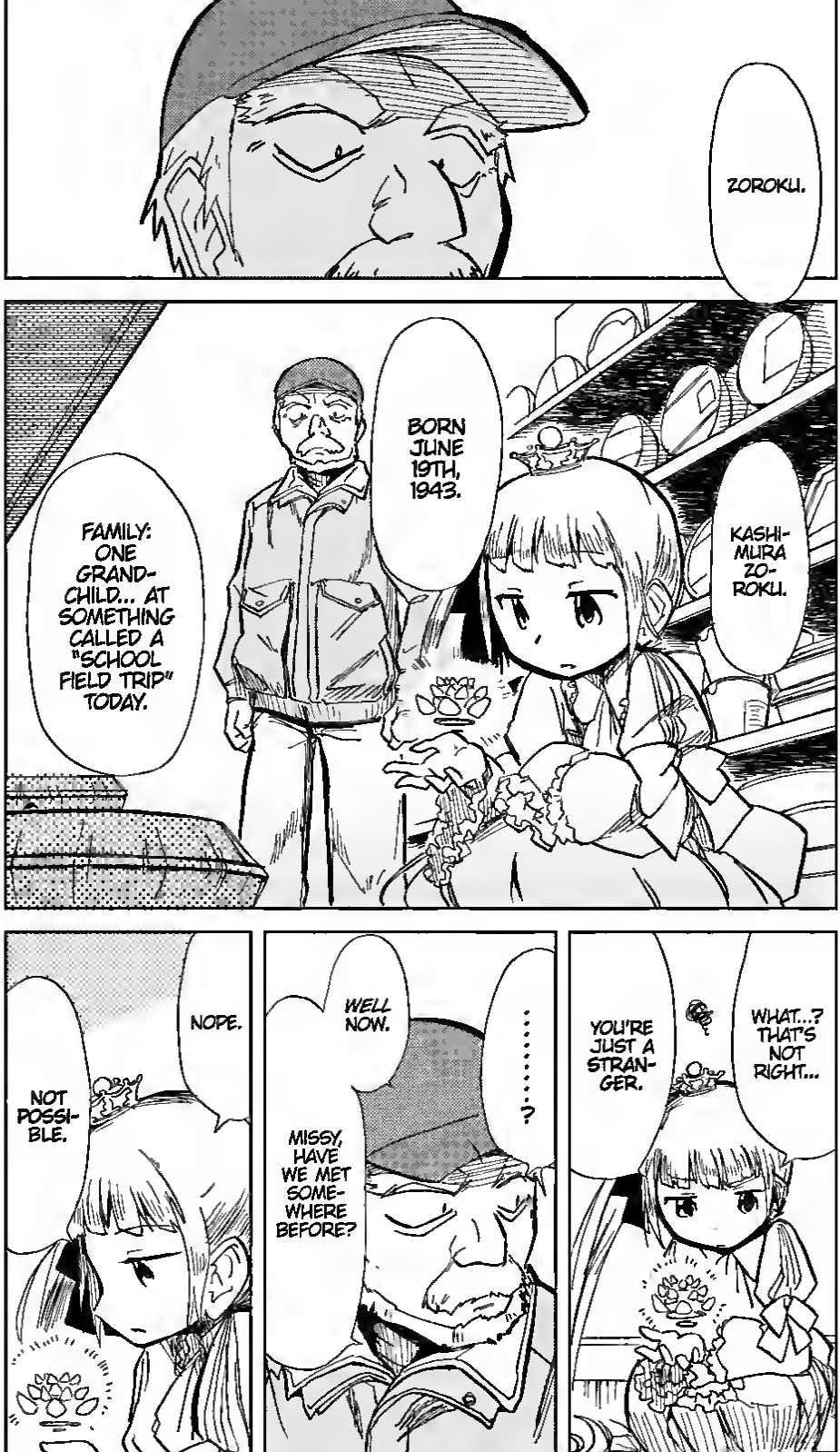
SHE MUST BE RUNAWAY OR LOS KID. NO MISTAKE.
KASHI-MURA-SAN, YOU MUST TALK HER.
HEY, HEY... YOU TRYING TO PUSH TROUBLE ON YOUR CUSTOM-ERS?
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF I HADN'T COME IN?
WHAT ABOUT THE MAN-AGER?
MANAGER NO GOO'. NO LIKE PROBLEM.
THAT MANAGER ALWAYS STEAL MONEY. I KNOW BUT GET FIRED IF SAY, YOU KNOW?
I NO TAK GOO' SO POLICE NOT TREAT WELL.
BUT LITTLE GIRL, NOT GOO' HERE. NO PLACE GO. DANGER.
.....
GO!
REAL-LY?
GO!
.....

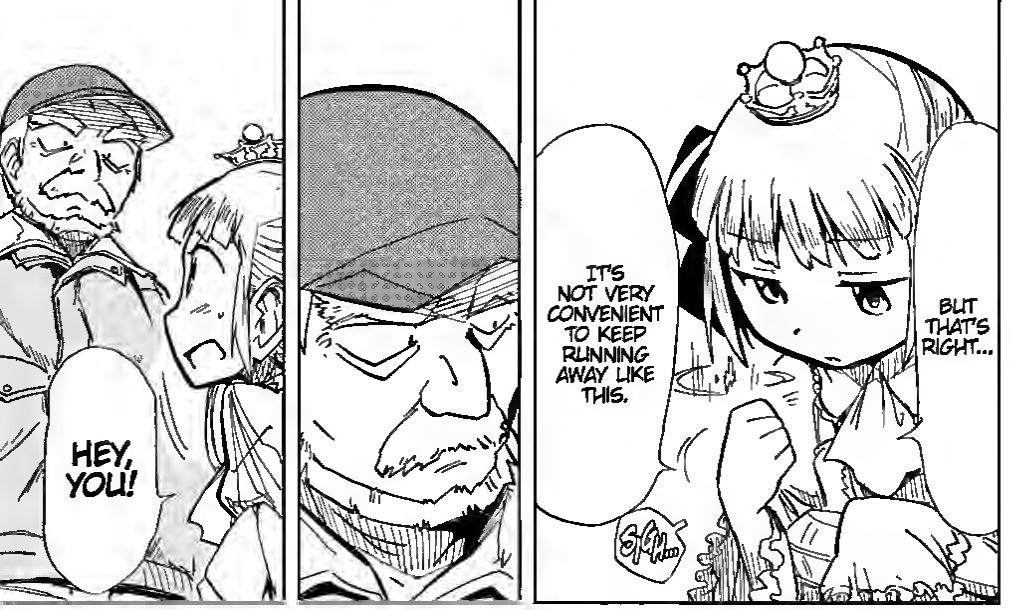
STRANGE OUTFIT FOR A RUN-AWAY...
EITHER WAY, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
SHE CAN'T BE MORE THAN TEN OR SO.
?
MISSY?
!
AACK!
DON'T PUT YOUR HANDS ALL OVER THE FOOD.
YOU CAN'T DECIDE ON LUNCH OR SOME-THING?
THEN GET THE RICE. YOU EAT IT, AND YOU'LL GROW STRONG.
.....

Y-YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT, HUH?
WELL, YEAH.
I KNOW THAT.
YOU IN TROUBLE OR SOMETHING, MISSY?

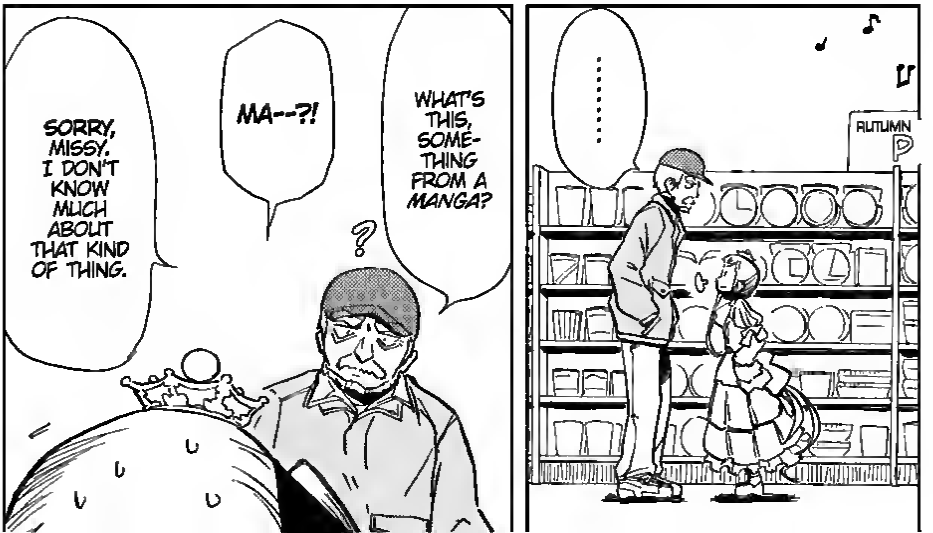
!
THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF PLACE SOMEONE YOUR AGE SHOULD BE WANDERING AROUND, YOU KNOW?
IF YOU'RE LOST, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKE YOU HOME?
.....

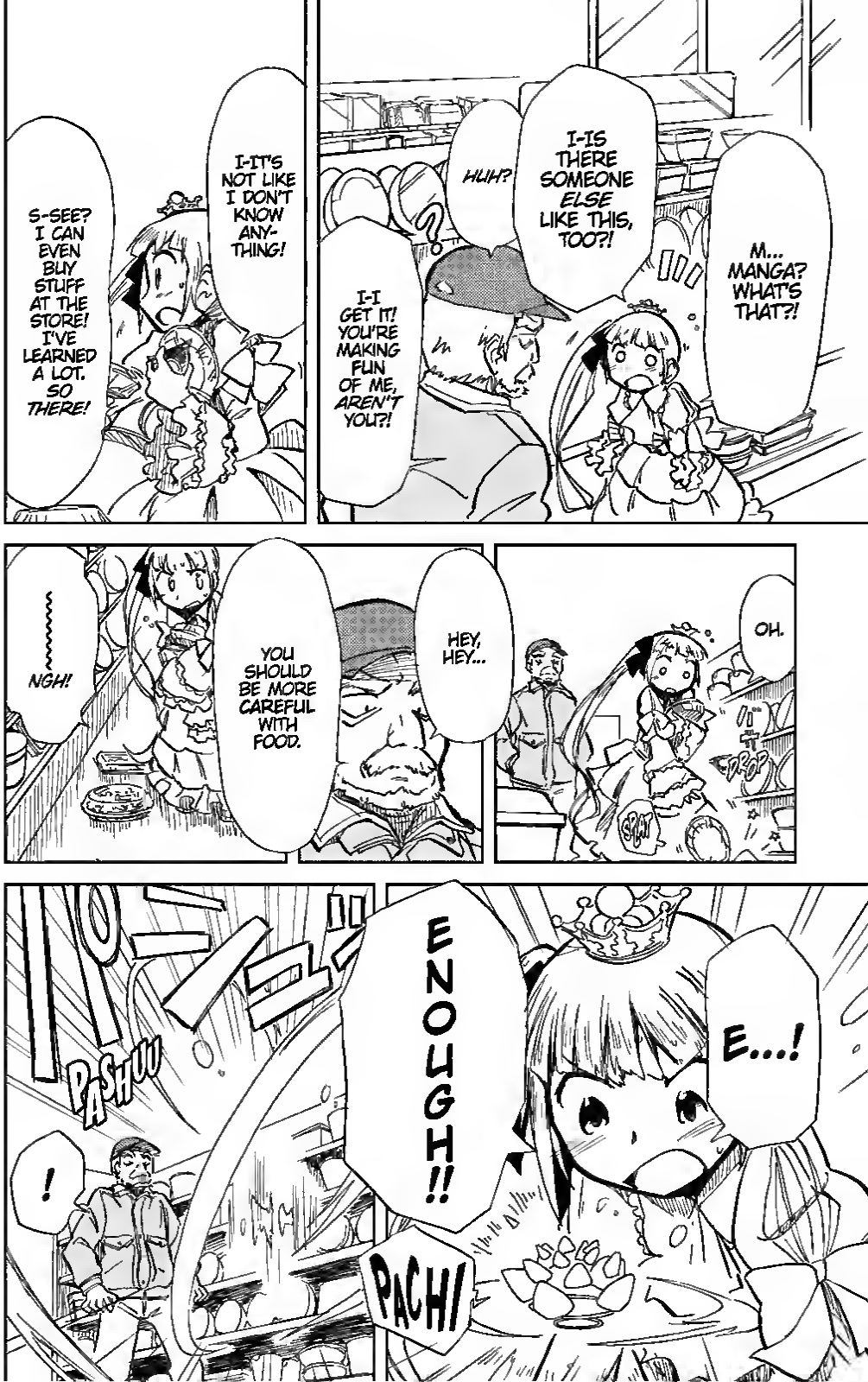

Y...
YOU...
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO TALKED TO ME THEN?
?
HUH?
PACH!


ZOROKU.
KASHI-MURA ZO-ROKU.
BORN JUNE 19TH, 1943.
FAMILY: ONE GRAND-CHILD... AT SOMETHING CALLED A "SCHOOL FIELD TRIP" TODAY.
WHAT...? THAT'S NOT RIGHT...
YOU'RE JUST A STRAN-GER.
.....?
WELL NOW.
MISSY, HAVE WE MET SOME-WHERE BEFORE?
NOPE.
NOT POSSI-BLE.

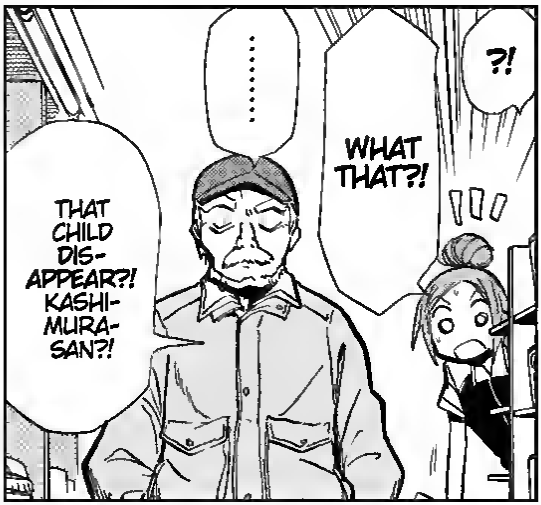

HEY, YOU!
IT'S NOT VERY CONVENIENT TO KEEP RUNNING AWAY LIKE THIS.
BUT THAT'S RIGHT...

WHAT-EVER YOU WANT. HOW ABOUT IT?
IF YOU SAY OKAY, THEN I'LL GRANT YOU A WISH.
WANT TO MAKE A DEAL WITH ME, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?

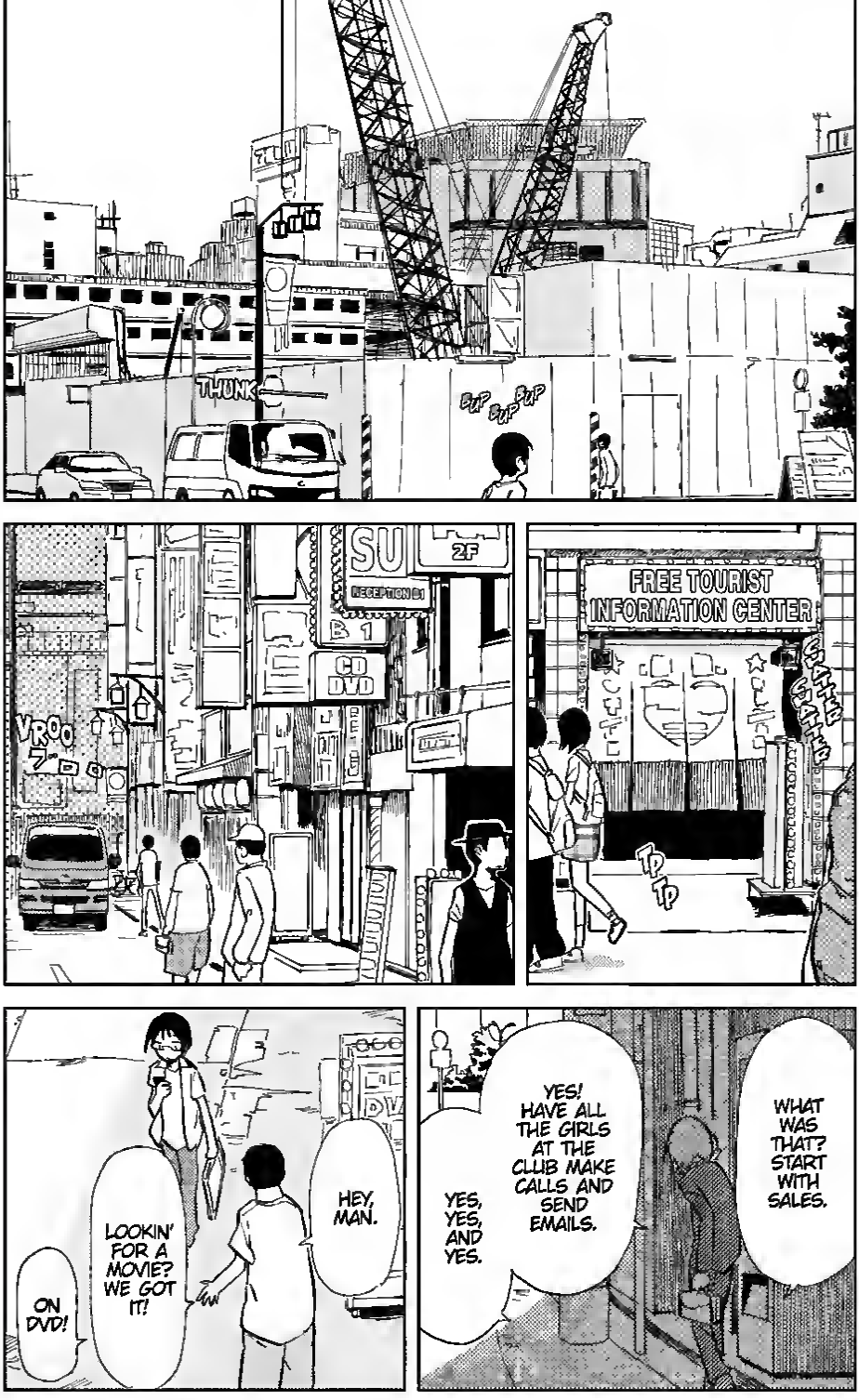

SORRY, MISSY. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING.
MA--?!
WHAT'S THIS, SOME-THING FROM A MANGA?
?
.....
AUTUMN


I-IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
S-SEE? I CAN EVEN BUY STUFF AT THE STORE! I'VE LEARNED A LOT. SO THERE!
I-IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE LIKE THIS, TOO?!
HUH?
M... MANGA? WHAT'S THAT?!
I-I GET IT! YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!
NGH!
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH FOOD.
HEY, HEY...
OH.
DROP
SPLAT
PASHU
!
ENOUGH!!
PACHI
E...!

CLATTER


?!
WHAT THAT?!
.....
THAT CHILD DIS-APPEAR?! KASHI-MURA-SAN?!

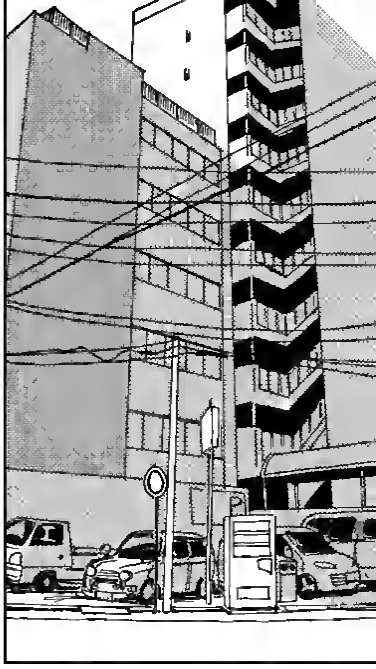
?!
WHERE SHE GO?!
WHAT THAT?
I DON'T KNOW...

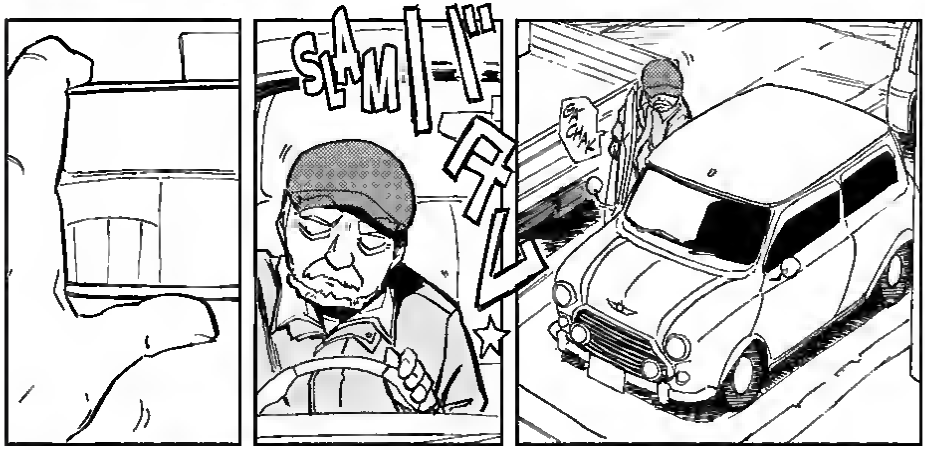

THUNK
DUP DUP DUP
SU
2F
RECEPTION
B1
CD DVD
VROO
FREE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER
TP TP
HEY, MAN.
LOOKIN' FOR A MOVIE? WE GOT IT!
ON DVD!
YES, YES, AND YES.
YES! HAVE ALL THE GIRLS AT THE CLUB MAKE CALLS AND SEND EMAILS.
WHAT WAS THAT? START WITH SALES.

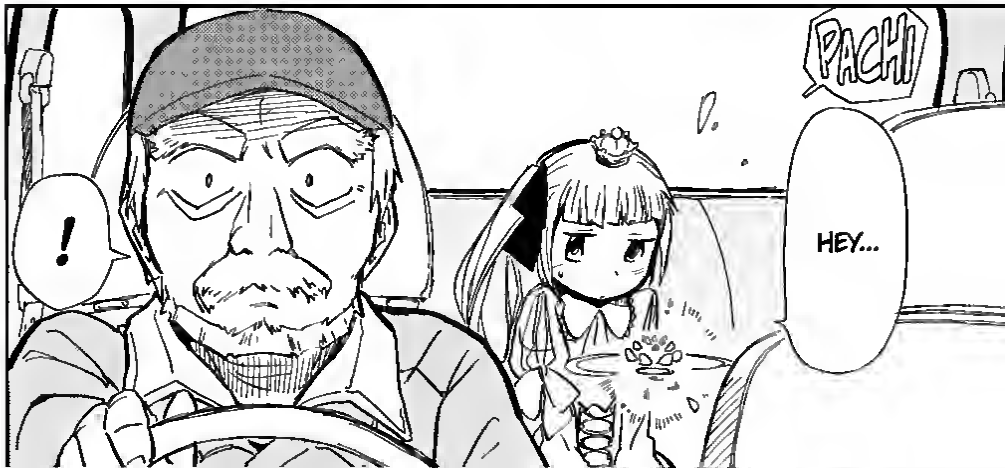
LAND FOR SALE
SKATE SKATE
HEY, LOOK!
WHOA! THAT'S ONE OF THOSE GUYS, RIGHT? THE GUYS WHO TRY TO LURE YOU INTO HOSTESS CLUBS?
RIGHT?! IT'S SO INTERESTING TO WALK AROUND HERE IN THE DAYTIME!
SIIIGH
PACHI
IT'S NO GOOD.
OUCH
MY POWER'S ALREADY GETTING CORRUPTED.
SKATE SKATE
BUSTLE
RRUURR...
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE SO HELPLESS BY MYSELF...
VVRRRRR
BUSTLE BUSTLE
BUSTLE
SHOOT.

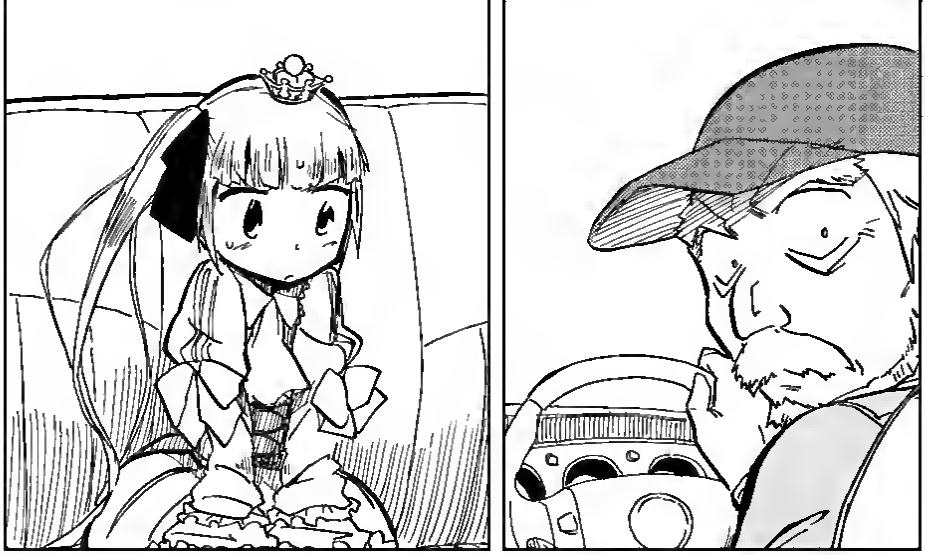
One Park
BEEP
Your parking fee is 200 yen.
CLICK

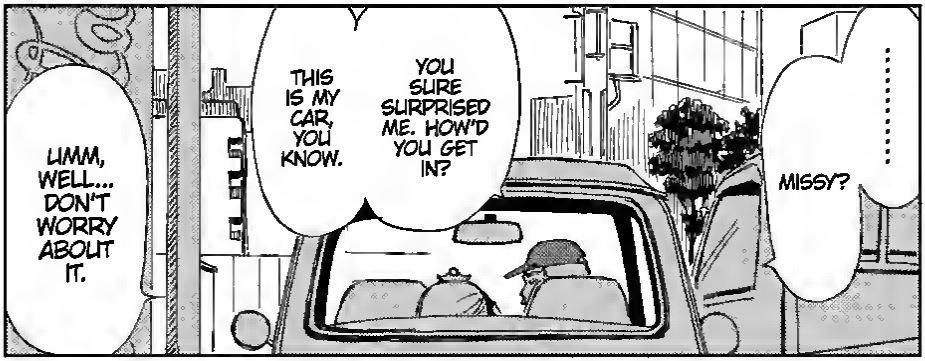
Thank you for your business.

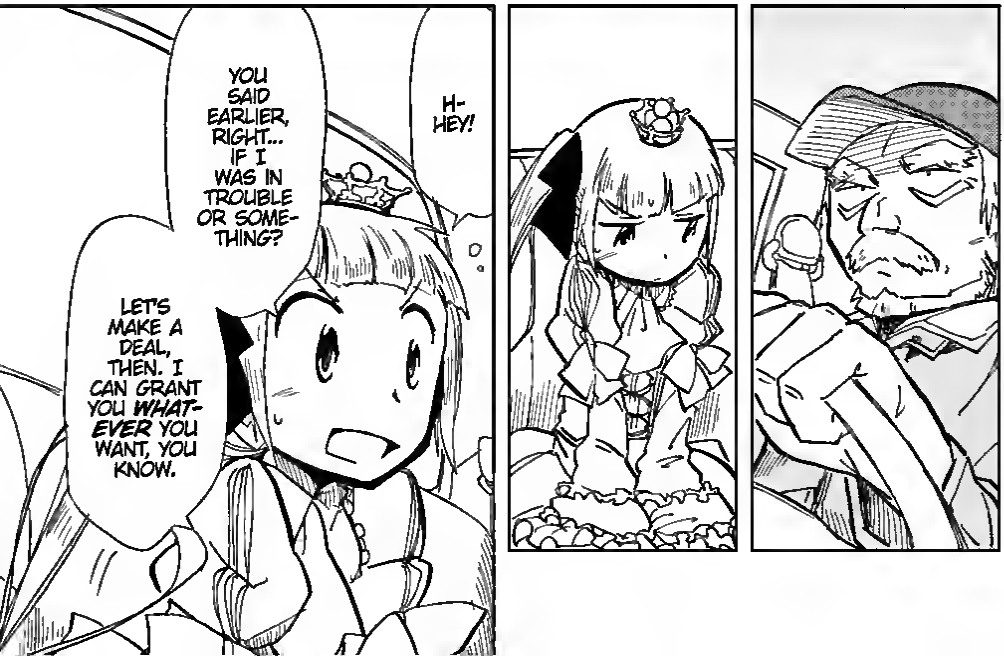


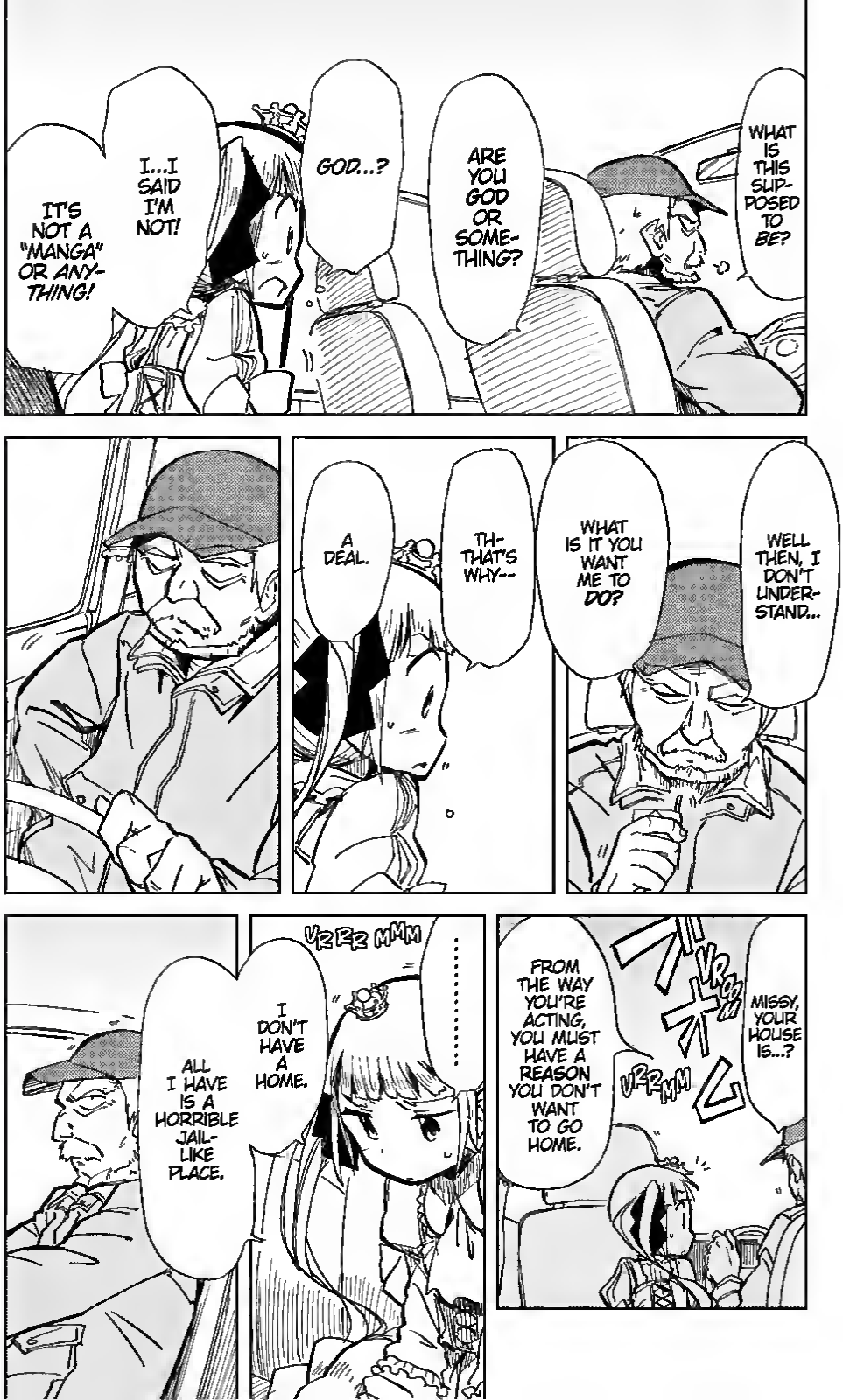

SLAM!!
GAT CHAK!


!
PACHI
HEY...

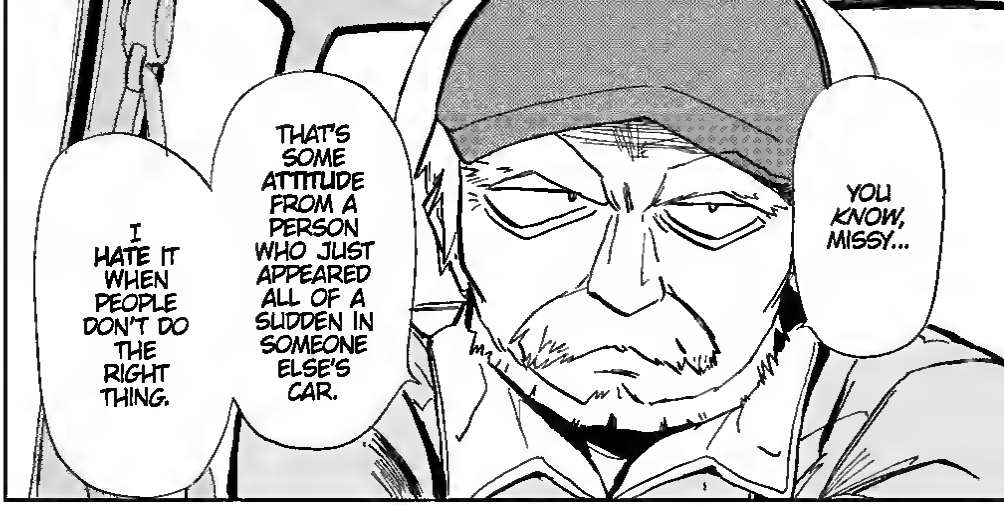


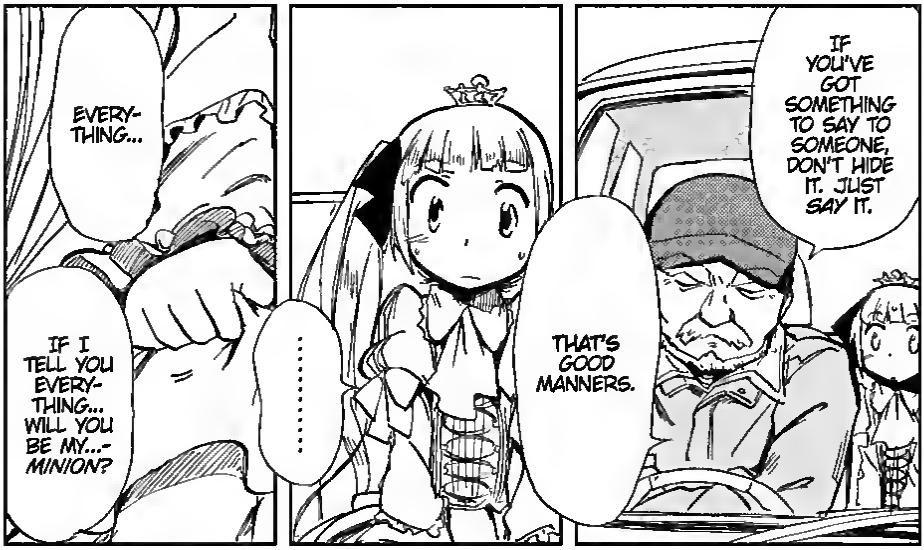

MISSY?
.....
YOU SURE SURPRISED ME. HOW'D YOU GET IN?
THIS IS MY CAR, YOU KNOW.
UMM, WELL... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

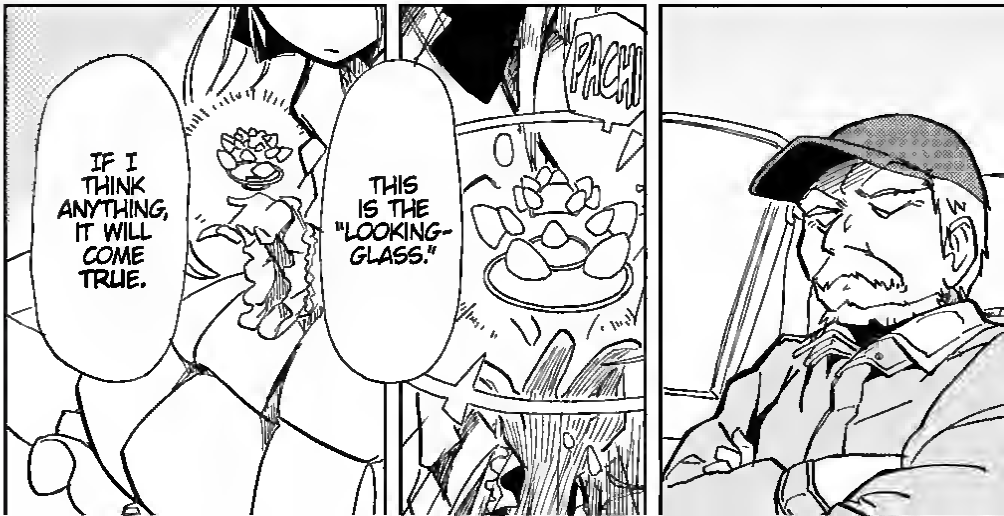

H-HEY!
YOU SAID EARLIER, RIGHT... IF I WAS IN TROUBLE OR SOMETHING?
LET'S MAKE A DEAL, THEN. I CAN GRANT YOU *WHATEVER* YOU WANT, YOU KNOW.


WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
ARE YOU GOD OR SOMETHING?
GOD...?
I...I SAID I'M NOT!
IT'S NOT A "MANGA" OR ANYTHING!
WELL THEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
TH-THAT'S WHY--
A DEAL.
MISSY, YOUR HOUSE IS...?
FROM THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING, YOU MUST HAVE A REASON YOU DON'T WANT TO GO HOME.
I DON'T HAVE A HOME.
ALL I HAVE IS A HORRIBLE JAIL-LIKE PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW.
AGE?
VRRR MM MM
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SO I CAME OUT HERE.
I THOUGHT, IF I WENT OUT INTO THE "OUTSIDE WORLD," I MIGHT MEET THEM.
WHEN I WAS LOCKED UP THERE.
I HEARD SOME-ONE...
DO YOU WANT ME TO GRANT YOU A WISH OR NOT?!
WH-WHO CARES?! HOW ABOUT GIVING ME AN ANSWER?
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT ME TALKING TO YOU EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE, THEN?


YOU KNOW, MISSY...
THAT'S SOME ATTITUDE FROM A PERSON WHO JUST APPEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN IN SOMEONE ELSE'S CAR.
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING.

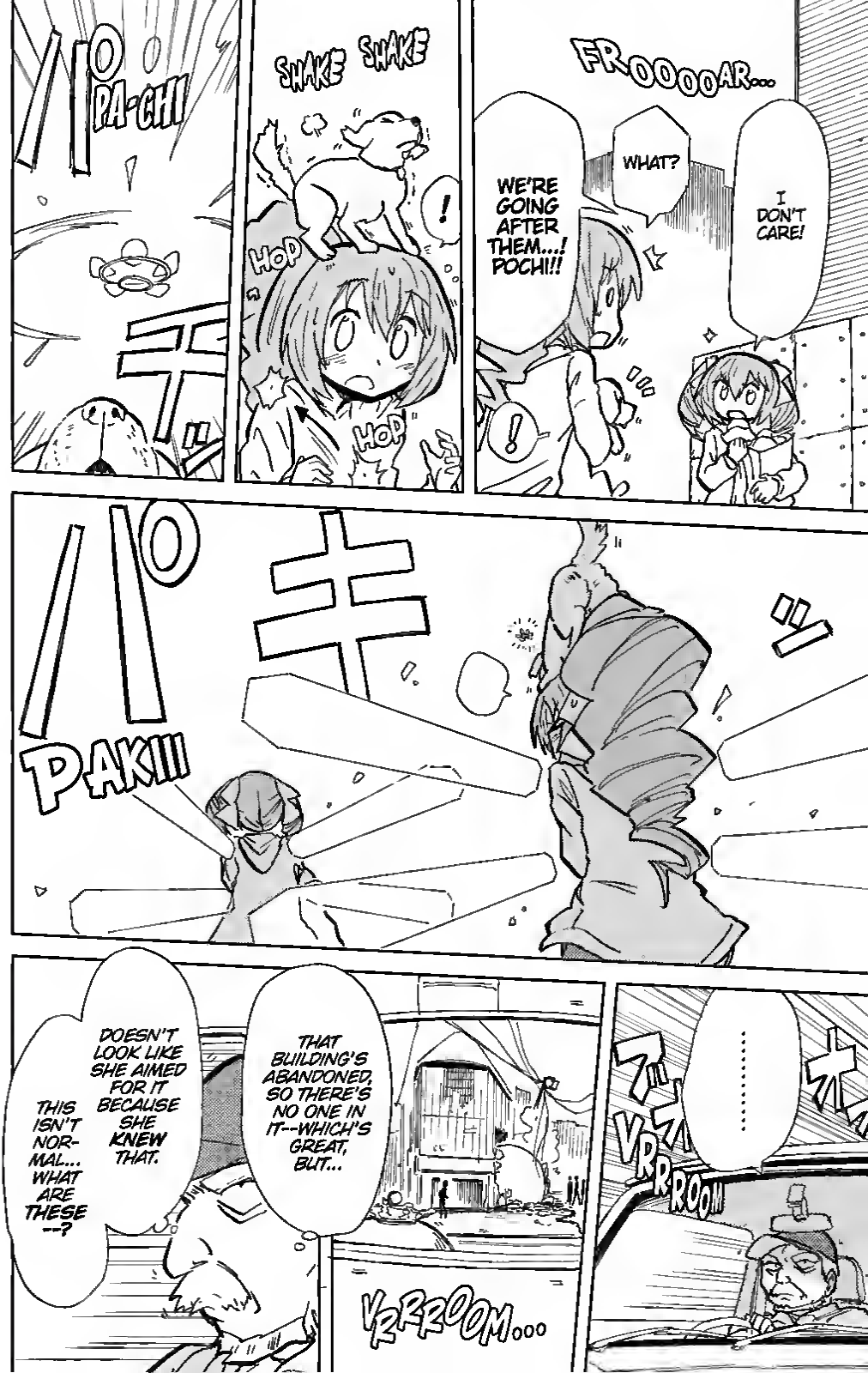

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO SOMEONE, DON'T HIDE IT. JUST SAY IT.
THAT'S GOOD MANNERS.
.....
EVERY-THING...
IF I TELL YOU EVERY-THING... WILL YOU BE MY...-MINION?


IF I THINK ANYTHING, IT WILL COME TRUE.
THIS IS THE "LOOKING-GLASS."
PACH!

WE ARE "ALICE'S DREAM-ERS."
TH-KWUM
THEY SAY WE'RE MON-STERS.
!!
NNGH~!
OOOOOUCH!
WHERE'D THIS ONE FLY IN FROM NOW?
WHAT'S THAT?
O-O-ONEE-SAMA!!
TAP TAP
BAM
BA-
M-MUNCH MUNCH--NNNGH!
MMPHO SEE MOOF MGRPH MOO!!!
ONEE-SAMA! YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK WHILE EATING!!
.....
.....
MMF

HEY!
CHECK CHECK
MY CAR...!
WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF MAKE BELIEVE?
ONEE-SAMA!
Y-YOU MUSTN'T STAND ON TOP OF CARS EITHER!
HUH ...?
GUH!
BRACE YOUR-SELF!
MRGLE!
MMMPH!
DA DAAAN
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING ...?
OPEN...
IF YOU DON'T RUN, THEY'LL KILL YOU.
HUH?!
DRIVE.
LOOKING-GLASS!
PACHI

IRON BALL——!!!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
SOME KIND OF HEAVY MACHINERY?!
ONCE SHE GETS EXCITED, SHE CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.
THEY'RE CATCHING UP! HURRY AND GO!!
HMPH! I MISSED!
O-O-ONEE-SAMA!
YOU MUSTN'T ATTRACT ATTENTION LIKE THIS!
WHOA!!
SKREEEECH
KROOM!!
DO


PA-CHI
SHAKE SHAKE
HOP
HOP
!
FR-OOOOAR...
WHAT?
I DON'T CARE!
WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM...! POCHI!!
!
PAKIII
THIS ISN'T NOR-MAL... WHAT ARE THESE --?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE AIMED FOR IT BECAUSE SHE KNEW THAT.
THAT BUILDING'S ABANDONED, SO THERE'S NO ONE IN IT--WHICH'S GREAT, BUT...
VRRROOM...
.....
VRRROOM

GROOOO
WHOA?!
WHAT'S THAT?!
?!
HEY-- I'M JUST ASKING FOR THE SAKE OF ASKING, BUT...
WHAT IS THAT?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FLYING TOWARDS US, BUT...
YEAH?
IT'S JUST THEIR KIND OF "THOUGHT" POWER.
GROOOO
GOOD JOB, POCHI!!
YOU WILL HAVE TEN MEALS WORTH OF FOOD LATER!
WOOF!
VVVIIIII
.....??
THE OLDER ONE CAN CONTROL ANYTHING THAT HAS A CHAIN ATTACHED TO IT.
THAT DOG SEEMS TO LIKE THEM... I GUESS IT WANTED TO FLY, HUH?
GOOOO

OWW!
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
VRRROOM
.....
GROOO
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!! WHY'D YOU STOP?!
HEY ...!
PLEASE GET OUT.
KRRK
GRRRRNN
KRRK
VRRROOOM
CHATTER
CHATTER
FSHHH
HEH HEH.
YOU'RE PRETTY CALM, CONSIDER-ING THE SITUATION AND ALL.
YOU KNOW THEM, RIGHT? IT'S NOT RIGHT TO INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THIS.
IF THEY KEEP ON CRASHING THINGS INTO US, THEY'RE GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE AT ALL.

GNNNG
ANCHOR!!!
PACHI
I GUESS I DO LIKE YOU AFTER ALL.
YOU GET IT.
THE
?!
BUMM
DOON
PACHI
MU R MUR
OOH, WE'RE ATTRACTING ATTENTION! WHATEVER SHOULD I DO...?
HELP ME!!
GRR!! WHY IS IT NOT WORKING?!!
GORGN
FSSSHHH

A...
A BOW THAT NEVER MISSES...
SHURAH
KLTHUNK
SKRREEEEEECH
O-OPEN...
LOOKING-GLASS...
PACH
I-I-I-I HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT MISSES...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
FFT
FFT
FFT...
YOU MUST SHOOT THE TARGET THROUGH THE CENTER!!
YOU MUST NOT SHOW ANY MERCY!
NGH!! NGH!!
S-SORRY, SAA-CHAN.
G...
GO, PLEASE!
BA
SHUN

!!
DO
DO
DO
DO
DON
PASH!
!
BE QUIET.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MOVED SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
VRR
VRR
VRROOOOM
Y-YOU'RE MAKING THE CAR...?!
GRUNN
SKREEEEEE
GO-KWAAM
OH JEEZ!
WHOA!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DAMN IT...
.....

HEY!! YOU...
.....
DEFI-NITELY NOT!
WHAT'S THAT? SOME KIND OF HOLO-GRAM?
SHOULD WE CALL THE COPS?
WHAT ELSE?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
"RED QUEEN"!!
HA HA HA!! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE...

"RED QUEEN," HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M THE RULER OF MONSTERS. I WON'T LISTEN TO THEM.
HMPH! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, YOU STUPID SISTERS.
STUPI ...?!
WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?! ARE YOU SAYING MY BRAIN'S BROKEN?!
O-O-ONEE-SAMA...
.....
NGH ...!
S-S-SAA-CHAN!
YROO
L-LET'S STOP ALREADY-- OKAY?
WHY... WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
IT IS NOT RIGHT...! HOW COULD YOU BECOME LIKE THIS?
FORCE FORCE
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
YEAH-- YES. SORRY TO CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.
IS ANYONE HURT?
CHATTER CHATTER
AAAH!
GRIP
GRIP

S-S-SAA-CHAN!
MUTTER MUTTER
L-L-LET US HURRY UP AND RETURN HOME TO THE LAB...
W-W-WE CANNOT LIVE...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, ANYWAY...
MUTTER MUTTER
VRRROOO
PANT PANT PANT

THE LAB IS SMALL, AND...THERE MIGHT BE SOME TESTS THAT WE DO NOT CARE FOR.
H-HOWEVER, THAT IS THE *ONLY* PLACE WE MAY L-LIVE, YOU KNOW.
ME AND...O-ONEESAMA AND, WELL, EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME.
THE OUTSIDE WORLD BEFORE THE LAB WAS *MUCH* WORSE.

THAT'S A LIE!
I WON'T BE FOOLED ANYMORE!
I WAS LIED TO ALL THIS TIME--UNTIL NOW!

I AM HUMAN!
I WON'T BE SOME GUINEA PIG!
THE LAB--I'LL GET RID OF IT ALL BY MYSELF!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL!!
PACHI
FOOL!!
STOP! ONEE-SAMA!
PACHI
BOTH OF YOU!!
STO...
JIJI-RING
PACHI

LOOM
NGH?!
HMPH.
KRUM
DO-
BASH
WAIT...!
?!
YANK
WOBBLE
O...
O-
O...
ONEE-SAMA?!
ACK--!
BWUF
YOU!

EH?
HUH?
NGH...!
!!
HEY! MISS, OVER THERE!!
PUT THAT DOWN!!
GLARE
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD POINT AT PEOPLE, NOW IS IT?
YOU, YOU--ALL OF YOU!
HMM?
GROOO...
VRROOOOOM
PASH!
PASH!
HUMPH...
?
?
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER
OH.
UH...
OOH.
SHUDDER

GRRRRRRNNNGGG...
O-O...
ONEE-SAMA?
.....
BONK
KONK
CONK
EEP!
OWW!
?!!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, MAKING SUCH A RUCKUS?! GETTING OTHER PEOPLE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS?!
ANSWER ME!
GNAAW
ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU!!

WH-WHAT IS THIS? A MOVIE?
BEATS ME!
THEY'RE GETTING A TALKING TO.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
WHIMPER WHIMPER WHIMPER
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T ASK ME "WHAT ARE YOU DOING"!!
THOSE ARE MY LINES!!
AAH!
SQUEEEEEZ
OW, OW, OW!
SPEWING THIS NON-SENSICAL RUBBISH...
IT'S DANGEROUS TO SWING STUFF LIKE THIS AROUND!!
WHAT ARE YOU KIDS DOING?!

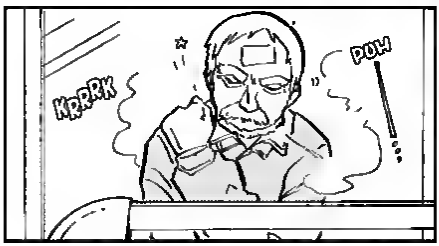
I-I-I DIDN'T SWING ANYTHING AROUND!!
IT'S THE SAME THING!!
EVEN IF WE FORGET ABOUT MY CAR-- LOOK AT ALL THIS!!
CHATTER
CHATTER—
CHATTER!
GR ゴ RO ォOOォ
VRRROOM
JUST THINK OF HOW MANY PEOPLE COULD'VE BEEN HURT...
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SO LUCKY?
YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME OR SOME-THING? HUH?!
NH...!
.....
FLINCH
EEEK!
HUH?!
YOU TOO!!

GRRNGG...
YOU KNEW I WAS STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS FROM THE START, DIDN'T YOU?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET YOU! YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF GRUDGE AGAINST ME?
NO...
NO! NOTHING OF THE SORT!
GRRNG...
YOU DON'T HAVE A GRUDGE-- AND YET YOU HIT ME WITH THAT HUGE THING?
MRR!
THAT ANCHOR AND THE ARROWS THAT SHOOT THROUGH CONCRETE?
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THOSE THINGS HIT SOMEONE.
MRR!
ESPECIALLY YOU, MISSY!!
EEP!
FLINCH
I DON'T KNOW IF YOUR BIG SISTER MEANT TO PICK A FIGHT OR WHATEVER. BUT THERE'S A LIMIT, ISN'T THERE?
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS YOUR INTENTION OR NOT, BUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE-- IT COULD HAVE BEEN MURDER!
BUT THERE ARE ELDERLY PEOPLE AND EVEN PEOPLE WITH LITTLE KIDS OUT AT THIS TIME OF DAY, WALKING AROUND HERE SHOPPING.
MRMR
MRMR
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP YOU HAVE WITH THAT GIRL OVER THERE...

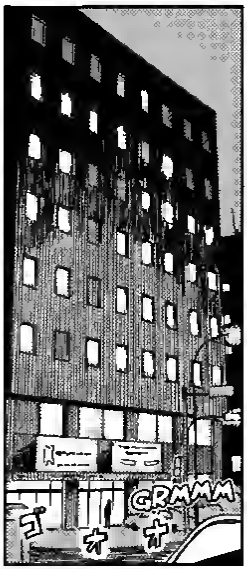
THE POLICE WILL BE HERE SOON.
I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM EVERYTHING AND SHOW SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED REMORSE...
UNDER-STOOD ?!!!
ANSWER ME!!!
Y...
YES, SIR!
OOOH!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
HUH? WHY ARE YOU CLAP-PING?
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
MUHUH MUHUH
WHO KNO-WS?!
.....
CLAP CLAP
REALLY.
WHOA! WHAT'S THIS?!
AN ACCI-DENT?!
MUHUH MUHUH MUHUH MUHUH

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

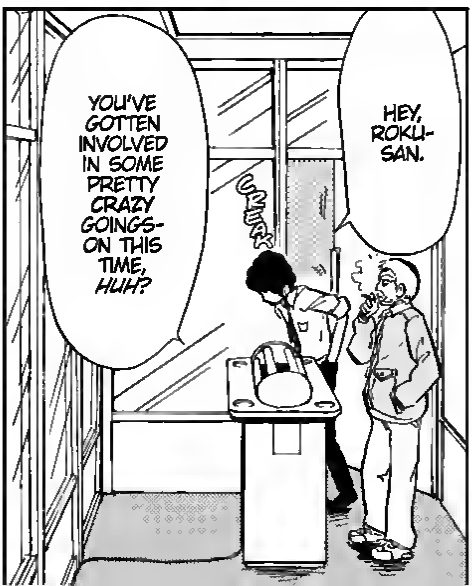
SMOKING ROOM
FUU


KRRRK
POW

YOTSUYA TRAFFIC SAFETY
YOTSUYA POLICE

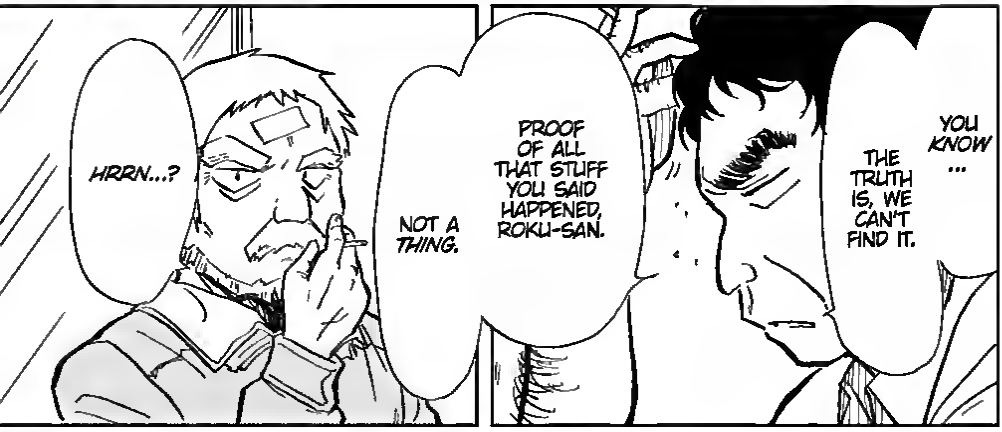

GRMMM

YOU, ROKU-SAN... DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD. YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR THIS, YOU KNOW.
NO, NO--I'M FINE, BUT...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
YEAH, KURA-SAN.

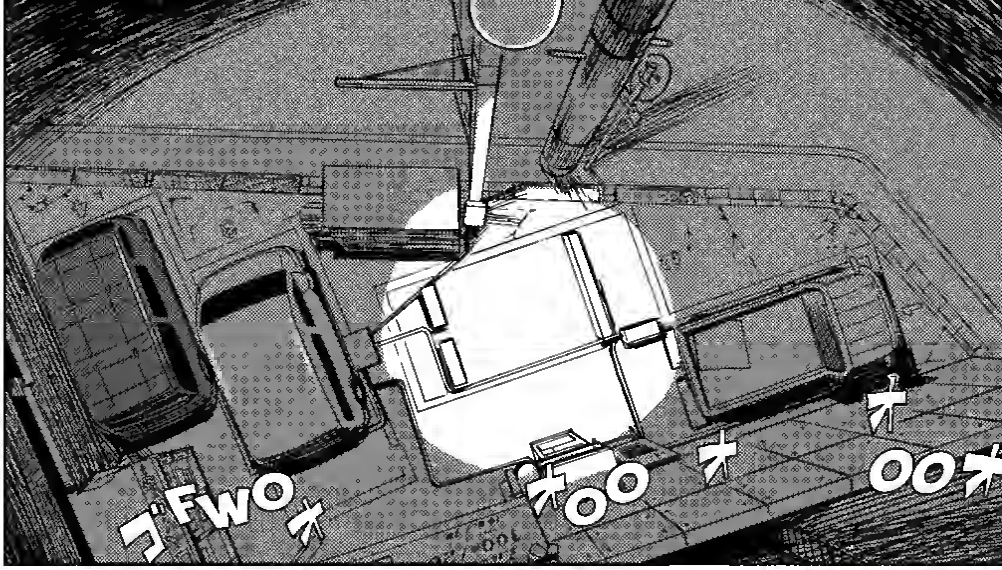

YOU'VE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN SOME PRETTY CRAZY GOINGS-ON THIS TIME, HUH?
CREAK
HEY, ROKU-SAN.

THOSE THREE GIRLS ARE KEEPING QUIET.
THE LITTLE ONE JUST KEEPS SAYING SHE'S HUNGRY. THAT'S ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO IT.
CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY'RE FROM OR WHO ANY OF THEM ARE.
I'M JUST ASKING TO BE SURE, BUT...YOU DON'T KNOW THEM AT ALL, RIGHT?
NO. IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
BUT... THAT LITTLE ONE SOMEHOW KNEW ABOUT ME.
YOU CAN'T FIND ANY-THING ON THEM?
NO, WELL...
THIS IS JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BUT... NOTHING ABOUT THIS MAKE ANY SENSE.
.....
THOSE GIRLS... WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID? THEY SWUNG AROUND ANCHORS AND MADE CARS FLY?
IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF MANGA. LIKE THE ONES MY GRANDKIDS ARE ALWAYS READING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, EITHER.

FUUU
.....


HRRN...?
NOT A THING.
PROOF OF ALL THAT STUFF YOU SAID HAPPENED, ROKU-SAN.
THE TRUTH IS, WE CAN'T FIND IT.
YOU KNOW ...

.....
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KURA-SAN?
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT YOUR CAR DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE SCRATCH. LOOKS BRAND NEW, ROKU-SAN.
NO ANCHORS, EITHER.
WE GOT THE CALL AND HEADED TO THE SCENE, BUT THERE WASN'T ANY DAMAGE TO THE PARKING AREA. NO BIG HOLES IN THE ROAD. NOTHING.


ゴFWOォ
ォOOォ
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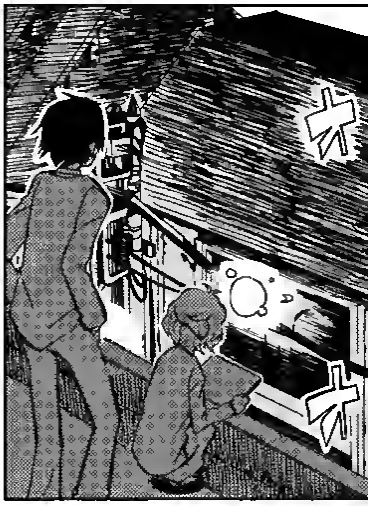
GOO
OOOOO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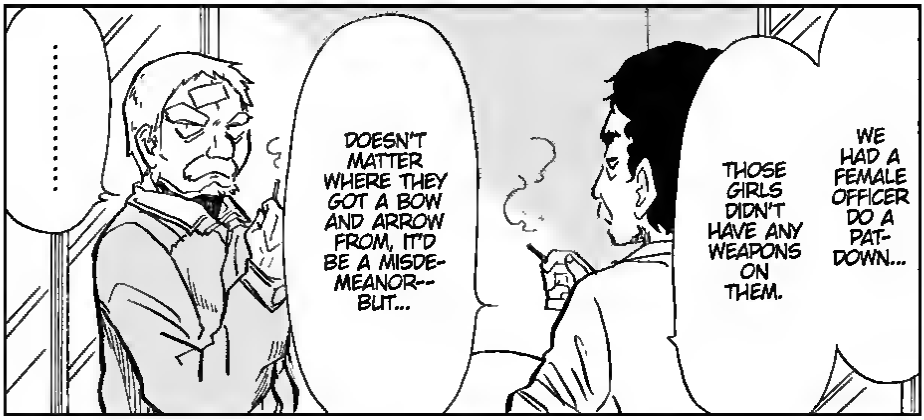
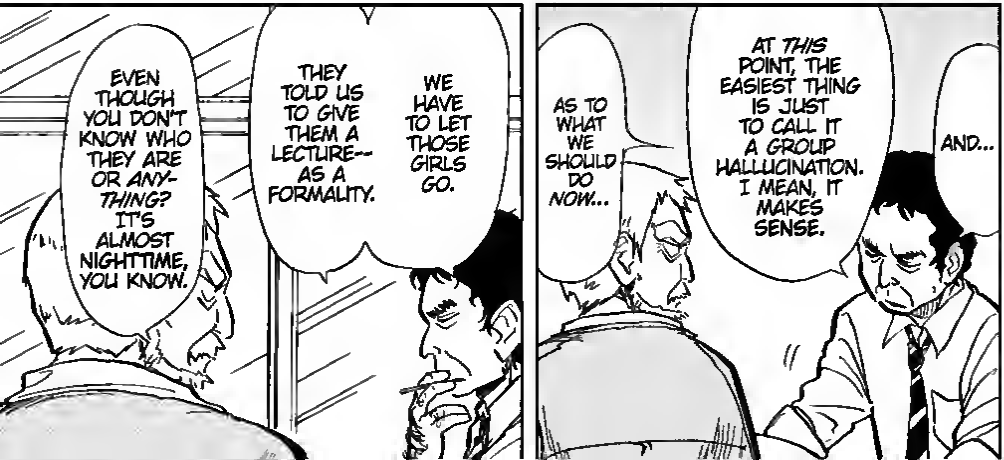
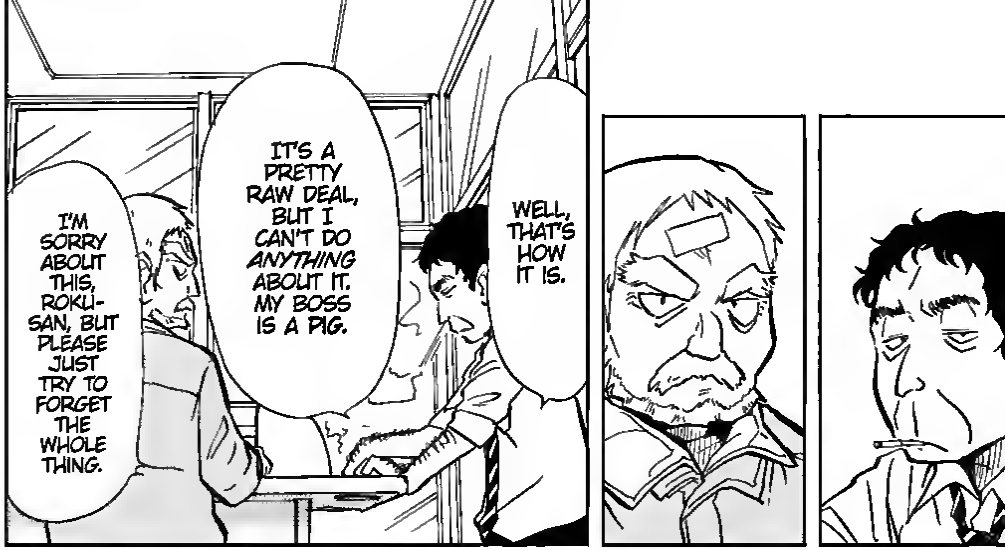
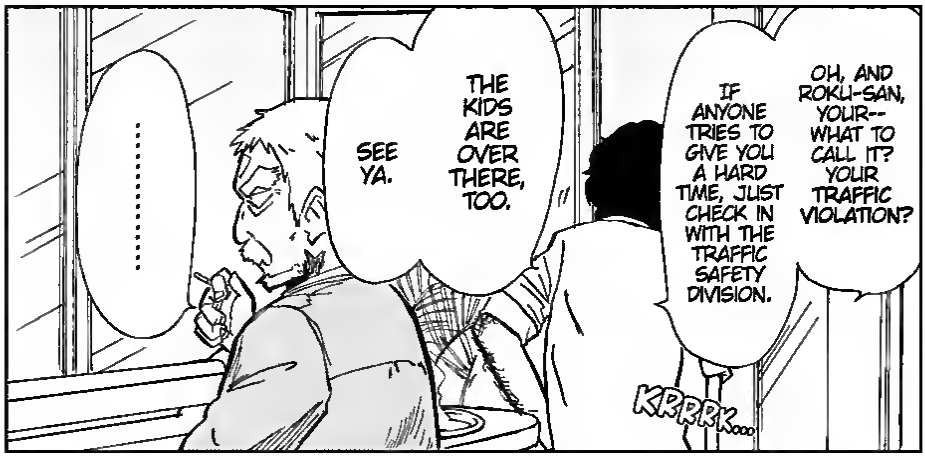
IMPOS-SIBLE.
RIGHT? I CAN'T WRAP MY MIND AROUND THIS.
WHAT? FEEL LIKE SOMEONE PULLED THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES?
THE LOCATION BEING WHAT IT IS, THERE'S A BOATLOAD OF SECURITY CAMERAS, AND WE CHECKED THEM ALL--BUT THERE WAS NOTHING ON THEM.

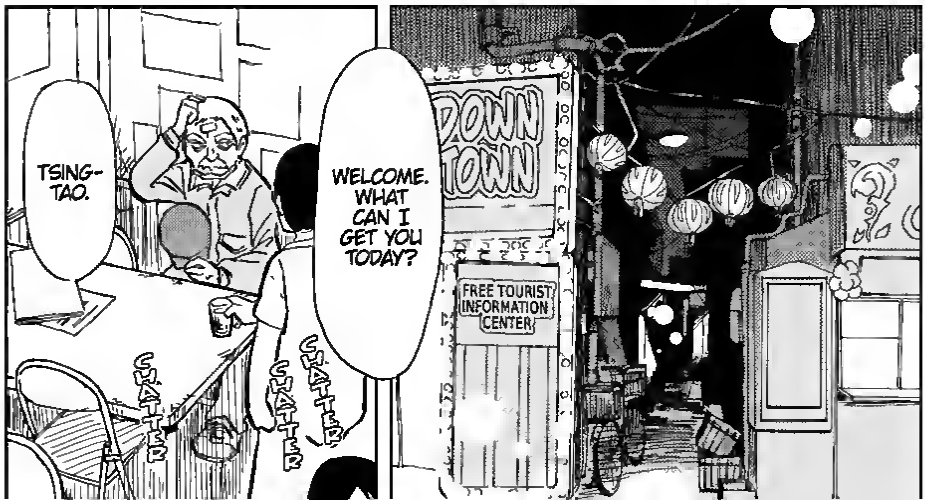
YOU KNOW I'M NOT DOUBTING YOU, ROKU-SAN. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG TIME.
THE TRUTH IS WE ALSO HAD NUMEROUS REPORTS, *PLENTY* OF WITNESSES.
AND YOUR CAR, TOO, ROKU-SAN... WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT IT WAS *COMPLETELY* BANGED UP WHEN IT WAS LOADED ONTO THE TOW TRUCK.
BUT...AS FOR THE IMPORTANT STUFF? WE DIDN'T FIND A *SINGLE* SKID MARK.
THE PICTURES THAT BYSTANDERS TOOK WITH THEIR CELL PHONES... *THEY'RE* ALL GONE, TOO.


WE HAD A FEMALE OFFICER DO A PAT-DOWN...
THOSE GIRLS DIDN'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS ON THEM.
DOESN'T MATTER WHERE THEY GOT A BOW AND ARROW FROM, IT'D BE A MISDE-MEANOR--BUT...
.....

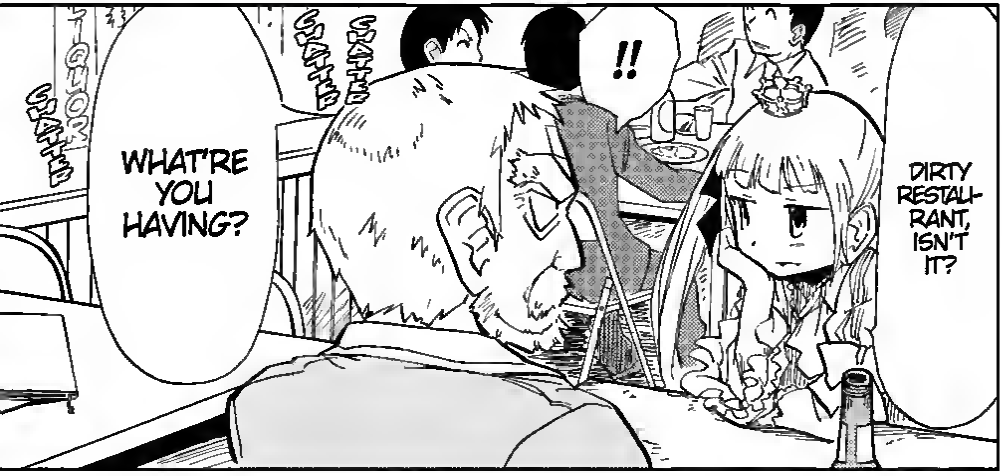

AND...
AT *THIS* POINT, THE EASIEST THING IS JUST TO CALL IT A GROUP HALLUCINATION. I MEAN, IT MAKES SENSE.
AS TO WHAT WE SHOULD DO *NOW*...
WE HAVE TO LET THOSE GIRLS GO.
THEY TOLD US TO GIVE THEM A LECTURE--AS A FORMALITY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE OR *ANY-THING*? IT'S ALMOST NIGHTTIME, YOU KNOW.

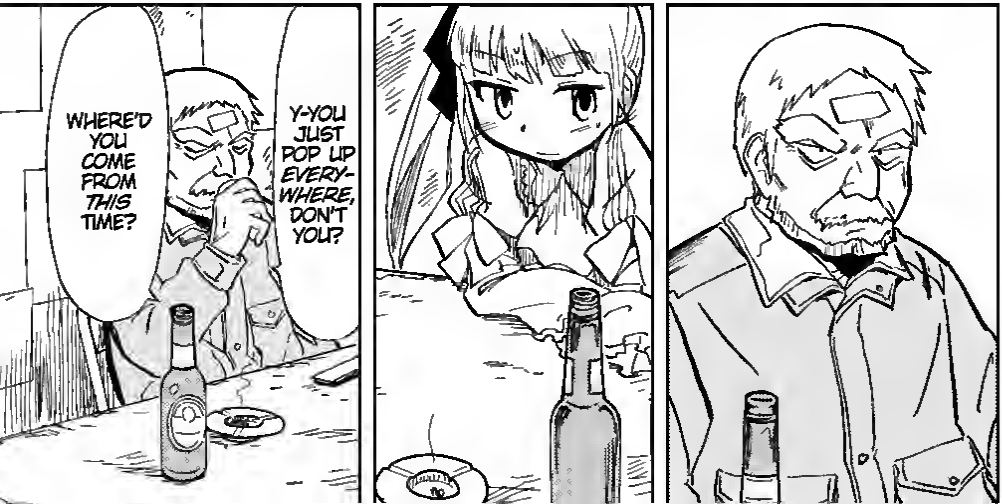

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, ROKU-SAN, BUT PLEASE JUST TRY TO FORGET THE WHOLE THING.
IT'S A PRETTY RAW DEAL, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. MY BOSS IS A PIG.
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS.

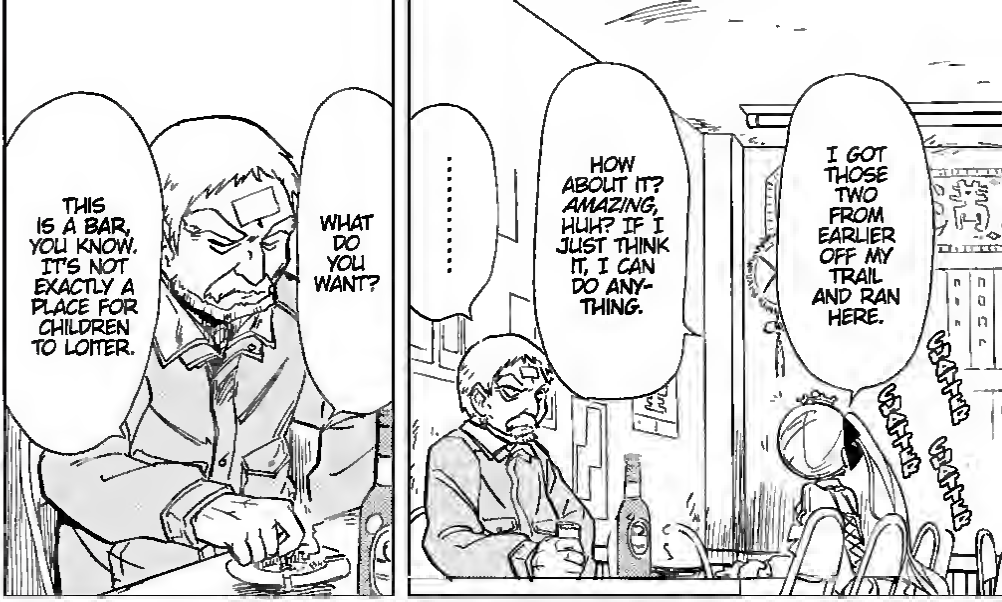

.....
SEE YA.
THE KIDS ARE OVER THERE, TOO.
IF ANYONE TRIES TO GIVE YOU A HARD TIME, JUST CHECK IN WITH THE TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION.
OH, AND ROKU-SAN, YOUR-- WHAT TO CALL IT? YOUR TRAFFIC VIOLATION?
KPRRK...

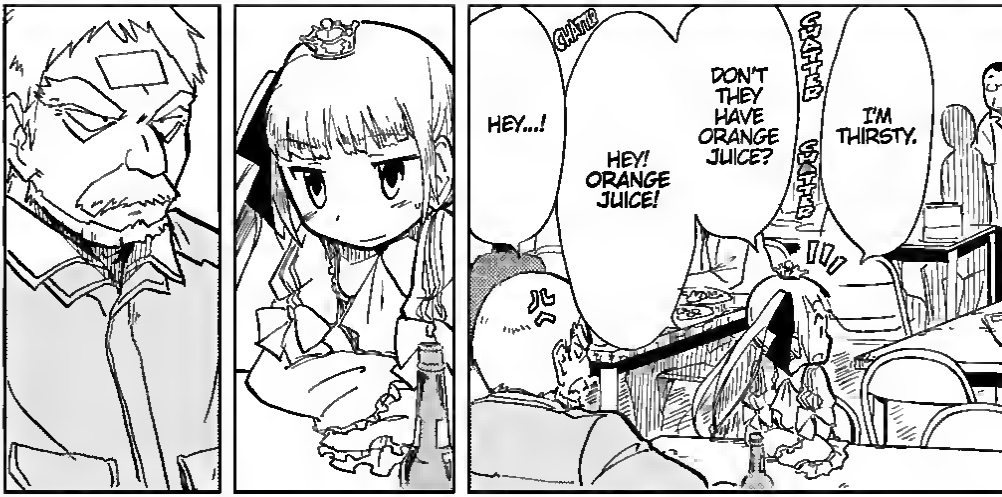

TSING-TAO.
WELCOME. WHAT CAN I GET YOU TODAY?
SKATTER
SKATTER
SKATTER
FREE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

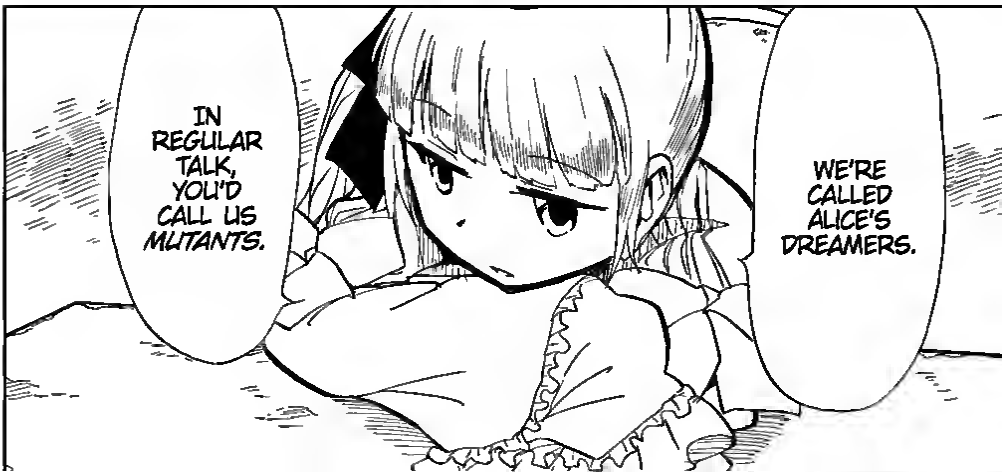
SIGH
...
YOUR TSING-TAO.
CHATTER
CHATTER
THANKS.
THUMP
I'D LIKE AN ASHTRAY, TOO.
AND THEN SOME SAUTÉED MUTTON AND FRIED BREAD, PLEASE.
YES, SIR.


LIQUOR
SKATE
SKATE
SKATE
!!
WHAT'RE YOU HAVING?
DIRTY RESTAU-RANT, ISN'T IT?

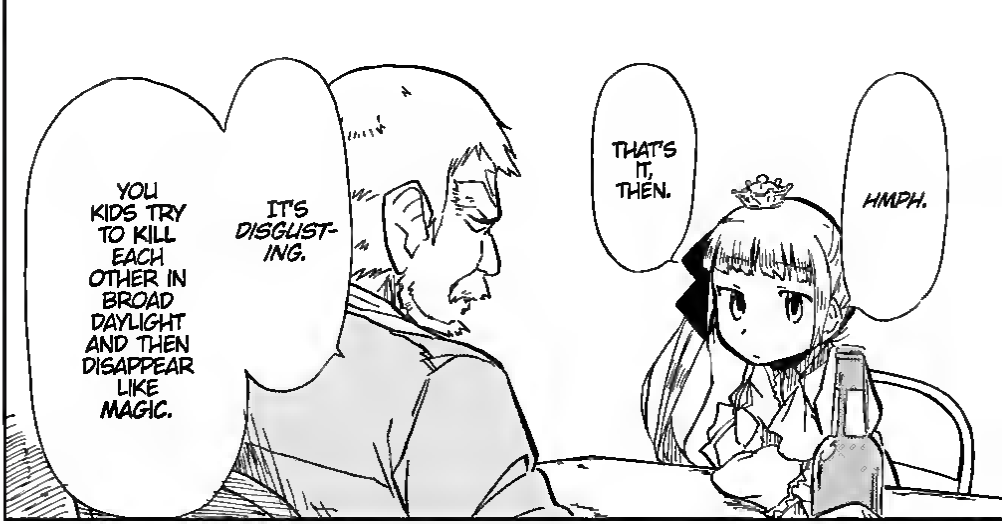

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM THIS TIME?
Y-YOU JUST POP UP EVERY-WHERE, DON'T YOU?

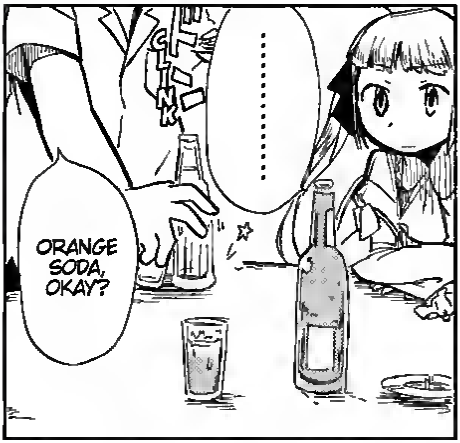

THIS IS A BAR, YOU KNOW. IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO LOITER.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
.....
HOW ABOUT IT? AMAZING, HUH? IF I JUST THINK IT, I CAN DO ANY-THING.
I GOT THOSE TWO FROM EARLIER OFF MY TRAIL AND RAN HERE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


HEY...!
HEY! ORANGE JUICE!
DON'T THEY HAVE ORANGE JUICE?
I'M THIRSTY.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

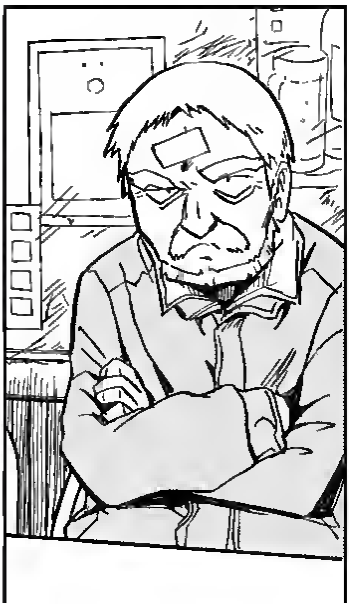

IN REGULAR TALK, YOU'D CALL US MUTANTS.
WE'RE CALLED ALICE'S DREAMERS.

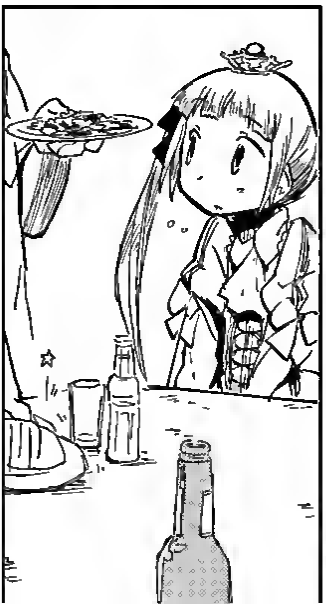
PACHI
.....
WHY THINGS LIKE US ARE BORN... I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS.
KOOOO
ONLY, WE USE THIS THING CALLED THE LOOKING-GLASS, AND--
WHATEVER WE THINK UP, WE CAN MAKE THAT ONE THING A REALITY.
CHAINS, BOWS, ARROWS, WINGS FOR FLYING IN THE AIR--YOU KNOW, STUFF LIKE THAT.
IT'S ABOUT THEM, BUT...
PASHI
YOUR CAR WAS FIXED UP PERFECTLY, WASN'T IT?
THERE'S PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THINGS LIKE THAT, TOO.
I HAD THE CAR SCRAPPED. DIDN'T WANT TO BE REMINDED.
AS FOR THE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS, I WENT TO THE WINDOW, BUT THEY WOULDN'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.
GUESS THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PAYMENT FOR KEEPING MY MOUTH SHUT.

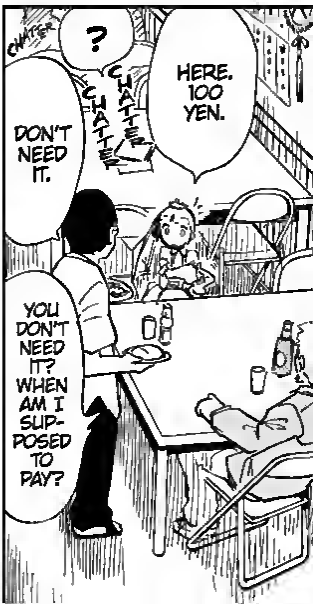

HMPH.
THAT'S IT, THEN.
IT'S DISGUSTING.
YOU KIDS TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND THEN DISAPPEAR LIKE MAGIC.

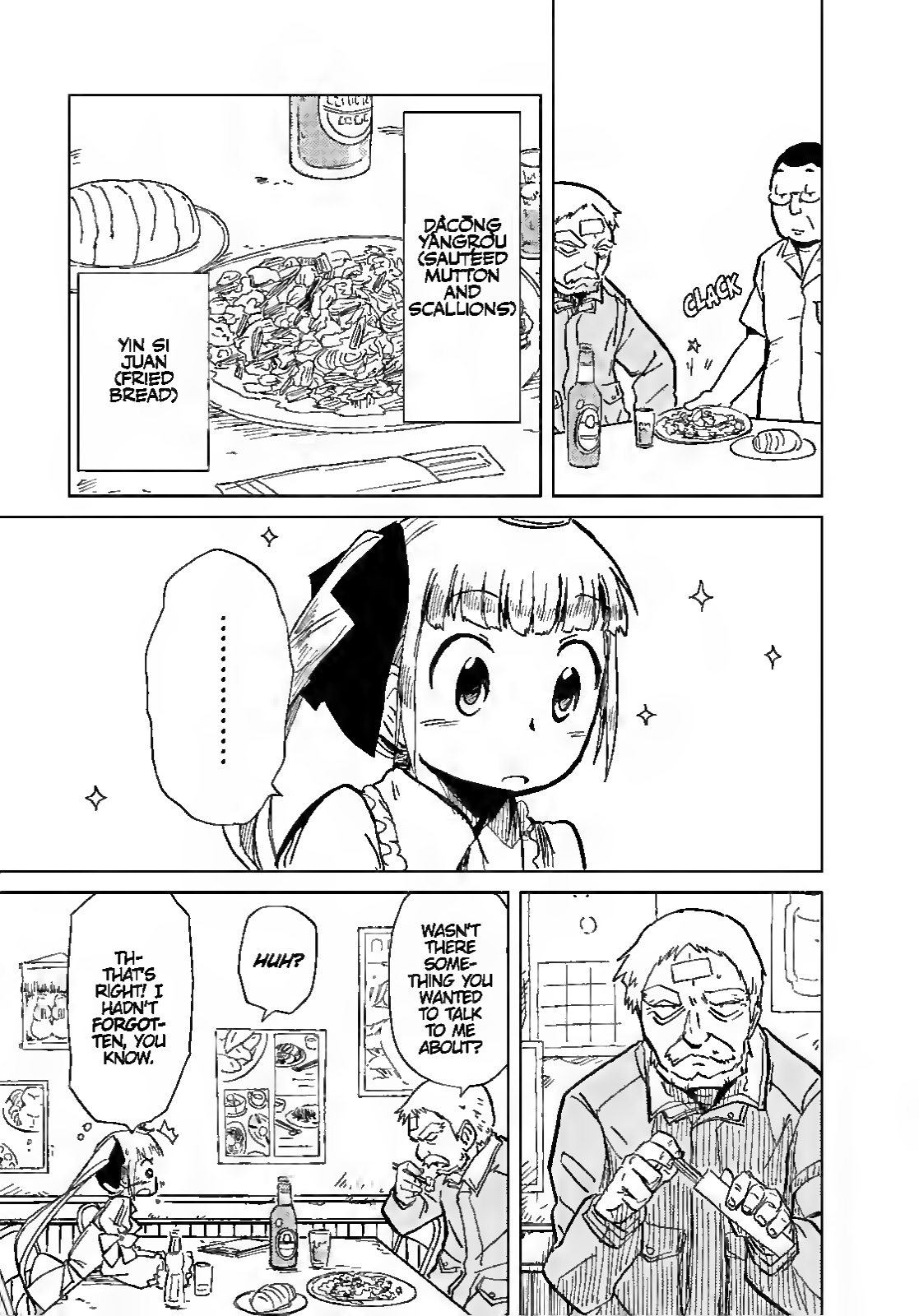

.....
GLINK
ORANGE SODA, OKAY?

I DON'T LIKE PROBLEMS.
I WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME THINGS AT THE OFFICE TODAY, AND MY PLANS WERE RUINED.

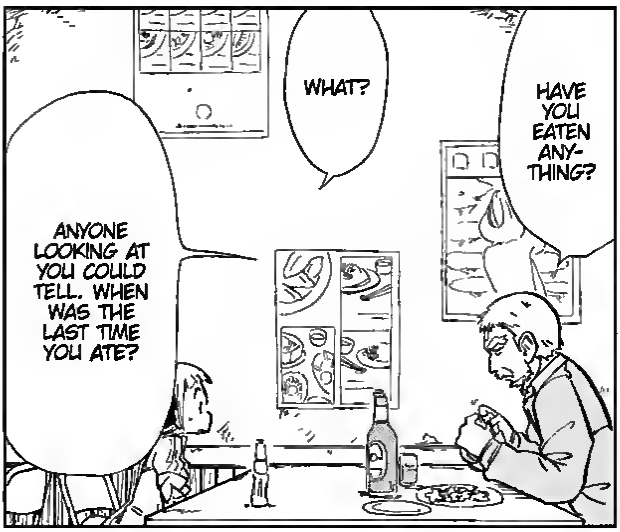


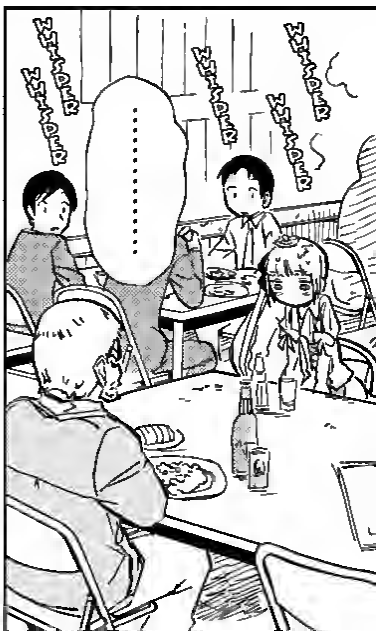


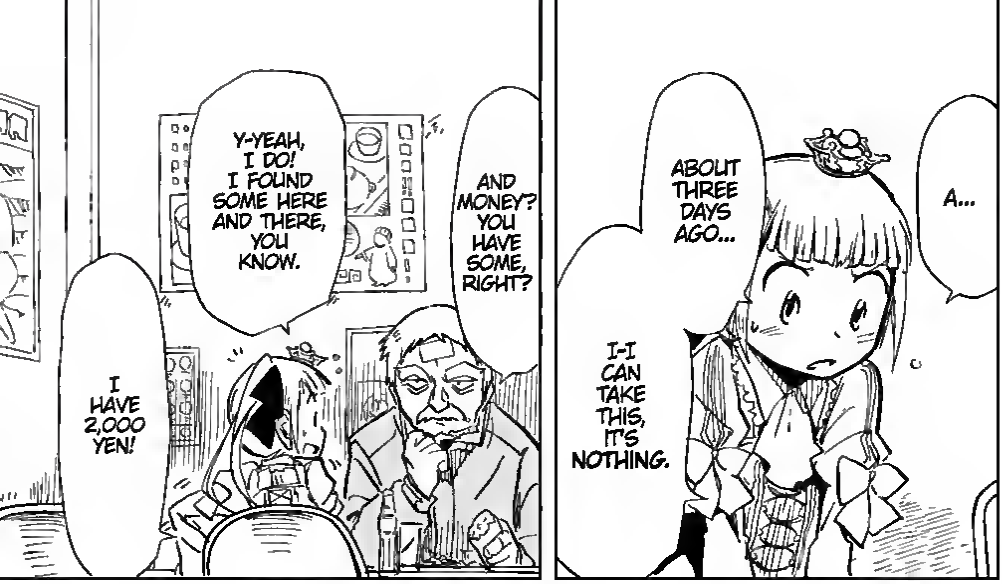

HERE. 100 YEN.
CHATTER CHATTER
?
DON'T NEED IT.
YOU DON'T NEED IT? WHEN AM I SUPPOSED TO PAY?

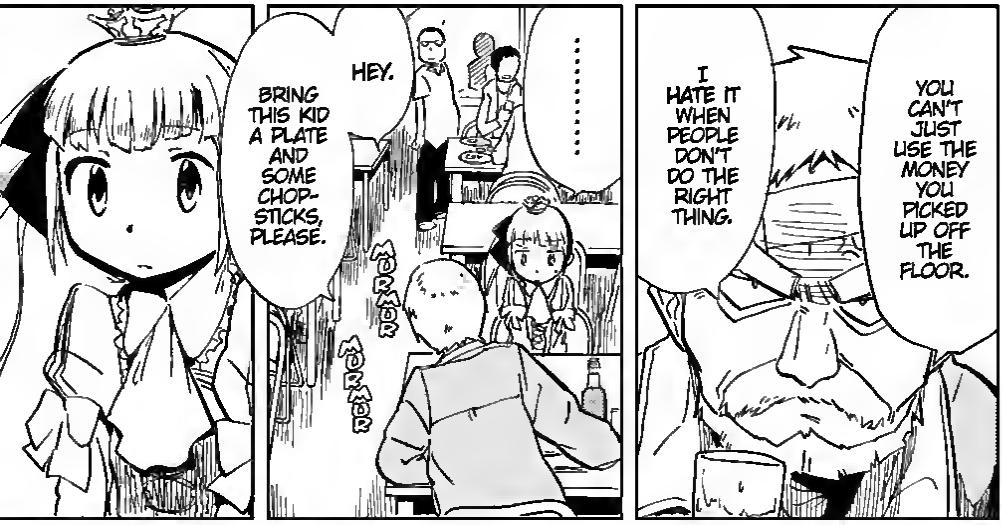

DÀCŌNG YÁNGRÒU (SAUTÉED MUTTON AND SCALLIONS)
YÍN SĪ JUǍN (FRIED BREAD)
CLACK
.....
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! I HADN'T FORGOT-TEN, YOU KNOW.
HUH?
WASN'T THERE SOME-THING YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

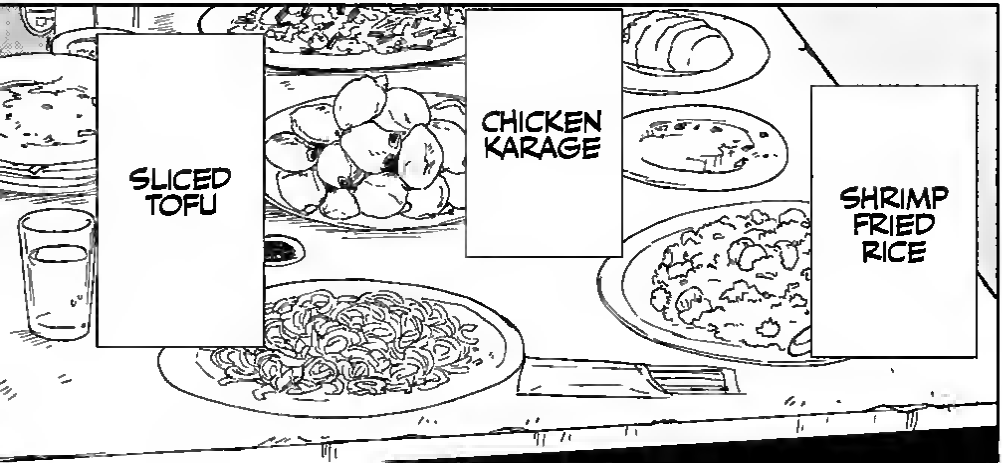
BA-BAM!
I LIKE YOU!!
STAND
I'LL DO YOU A FAVOR AND MAKE YOU MY MINION, KASHIMURA ZOROKU!
BE GRATE-FUL--
GRRR!
AAH, AAH, YES.
DON'T YELL IN A RESTAU-RANT!
AAH!
DON'T STAND ON CHAIRS!


WHAT?
HAVE YOU EATEN ANY-THING?
ANYONE LOOKING AT YOU COULD TELL. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ATE?

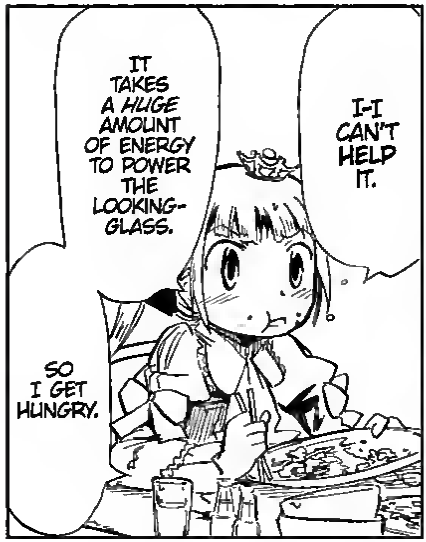

.....
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

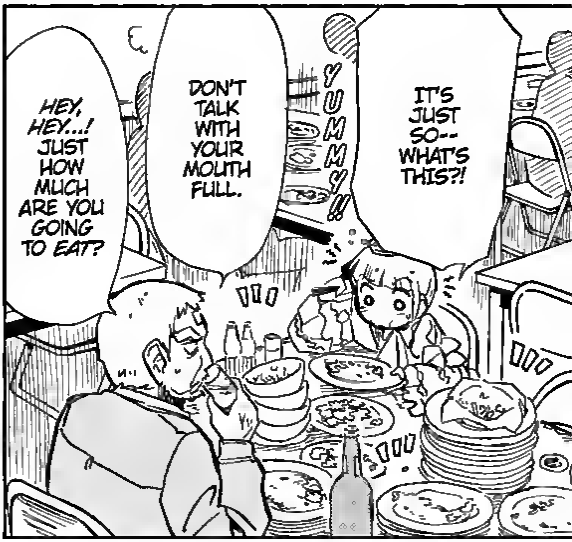

A...
ABOUT THREE DAYS AGO...
I-I CAN TAKE THIS, IT'S NOTHING.
AND MONEY? YOU HAVE SOME, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH, I DO! I FOUND SOME HERE AND THERE, YOU KNOW.
I HAVE 2,000 YEN!

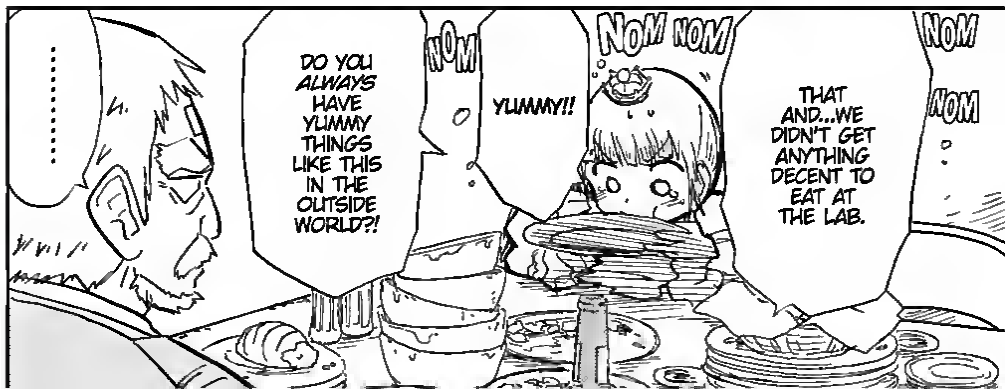

YOU CAN'T JUST USE THE MONEY YOU PICKED UP OFF THE FLOOR.
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING.
.....
HEY.
BRING THIS KID A PLATE AND SOME CHOP-STICKS, PLEASE.
POKPOK
POKPOK


SLICED TOFU
CHICKEN KARAGE
SHRIMP FRIED RICE

NOM
NOM
NOM
Y-YUM-YUMMY!!!
I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING THIS GOOD BEFORE!
MMRF! MNCH! MNCH!

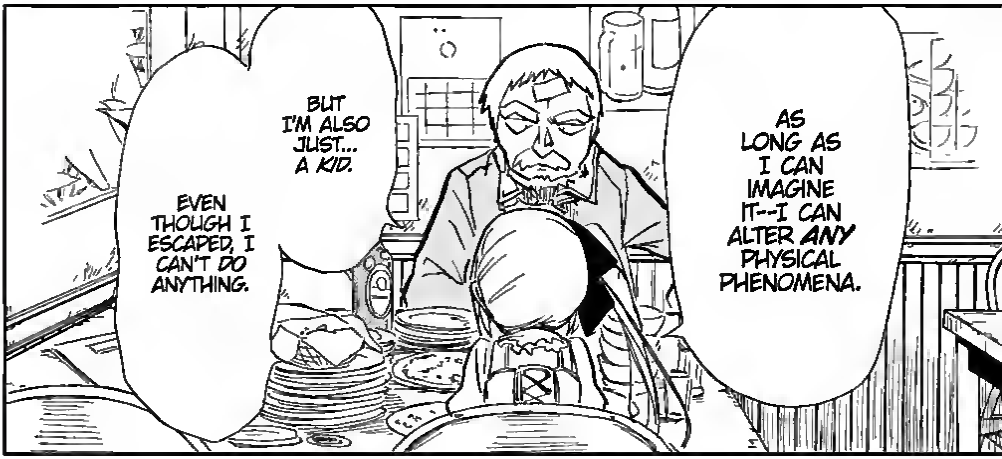

I-I CAN'T HELP IT.
IT TAKES A HUGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO POWER THE LOOKING-GLASS.
SO I GET HUNGRY.

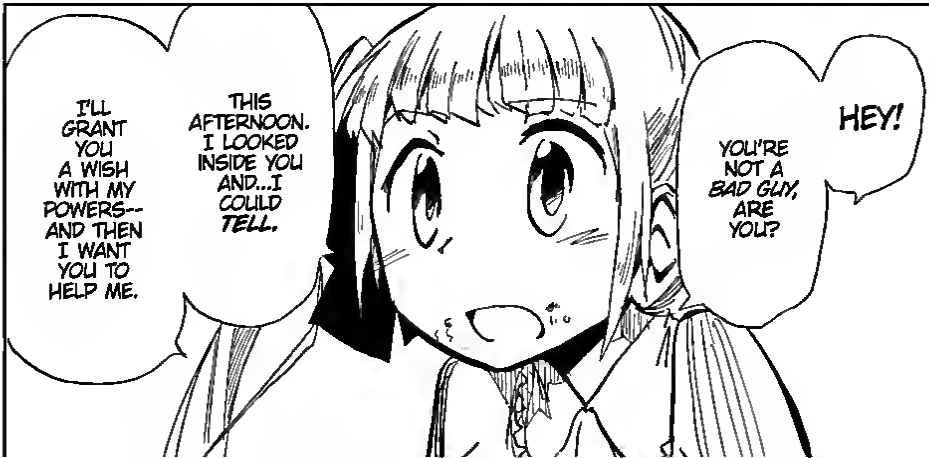

IT'S JUST SO-- WHAT'S THIS?!
YUMMY!!
DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL.
HEY, HEY...! JUST HOW MUCH ARE YOU GOING TO EAT?

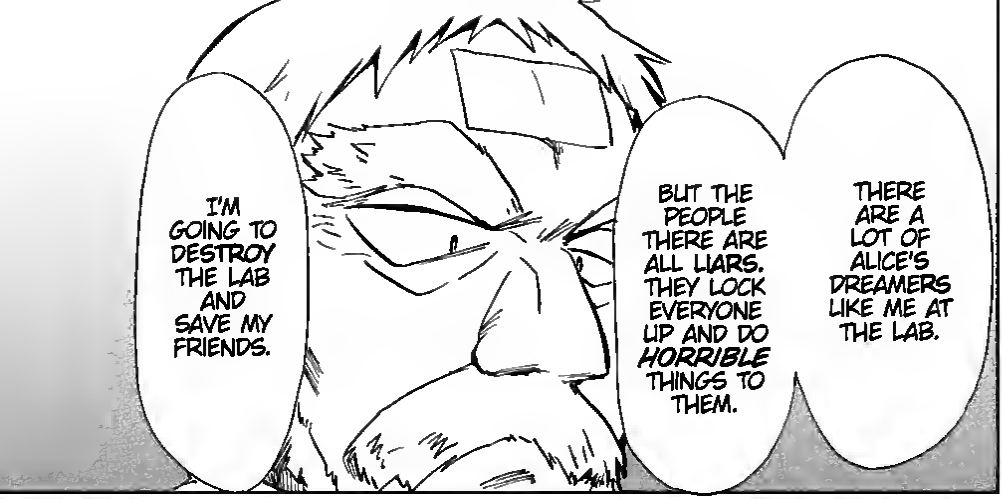

NOM
NOM NOM
NOM
NOM
YUMMY!!
THAT AND...WE DIDN'T GET ANYTHING DECENT TO EAT AT THE LAB.
DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE YUMMY THINGS LIKE THIS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD?!
.....

COME TO THINK OF IT... THOSE OTHER GIRLS FROM THIS AFTERNOON WERE EATING SOMETHING FROM START TO FINISH, WEREN'T
.....
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE CHOPSTICKS?
.....
SHUT UP.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE LABO-RATORY, TOO.
MISSY...
YOU SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A DEAL, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
CHATTER
CHATTER

I AM THE "RED QUEEN."
IT TURNS OUT THAT OF ALL OF ALICE'S DREAMERS, I AM A PSYCHIC "THE LIKES OF WHICH THEY'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE."

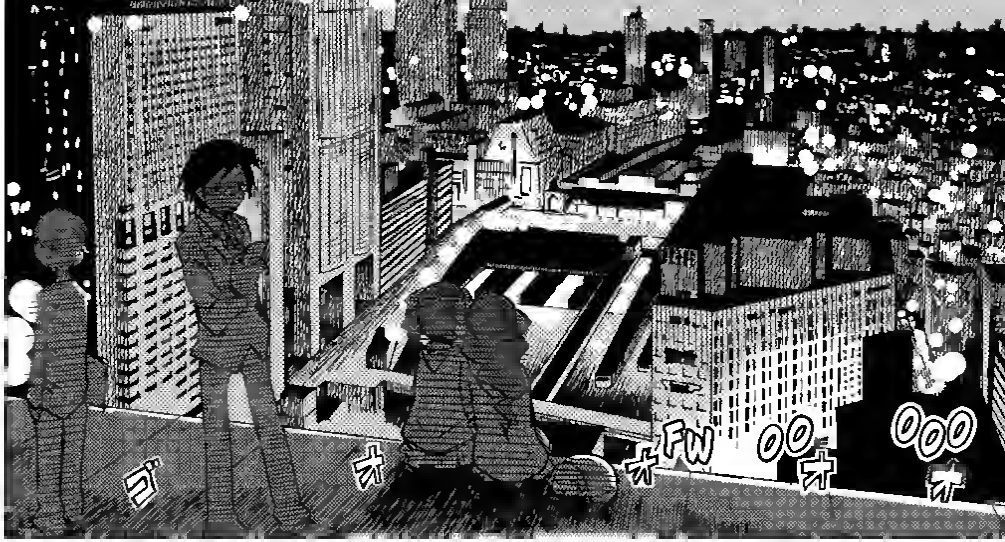

AS LONG AS I CAN IMAGINE IT--I CAN ALTER *ANY* PHYSICAL PHENOMENA.
BUT I'M ALSO JUST... A *KID*.
EVEN THOUGH I ESCAPED, I CAN'T *DO* ANYTHING.


HEY!
YOU'RE NOT A *BAD GUY*, ARE YOU?
THIS AFTERNOON. I LOOKED INSIDE YOU AND...I COULD *TELL*.
I'LL GRANT YOU A WISH WITH MY POWERS--AND THEN I WANT YOU TO HELP ME.


THERE ARE A LOT OF ALICE'S DREAMERS LIKE ME AT THE LAB.
BUT THE PEOPLE THERE ARE ALL LIARS. THEY LOCK EVERYONE UP AND DO HORRIBLE THINGS TO THEM.
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THE LAB AND SAVE MY FRIENDS.

ゴ FWOOOOO オ
オ
オ

MNCH MNCH
SAA-CHAN...
.....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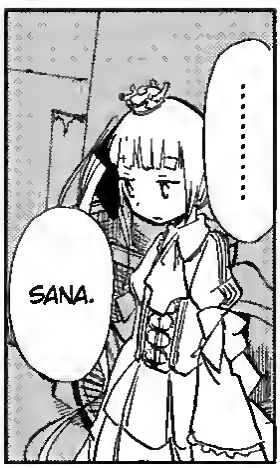
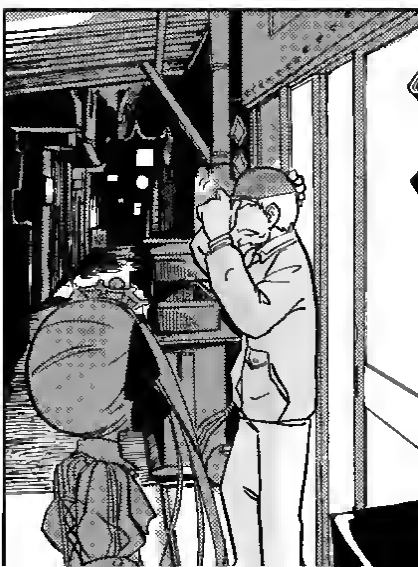
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MISSY...

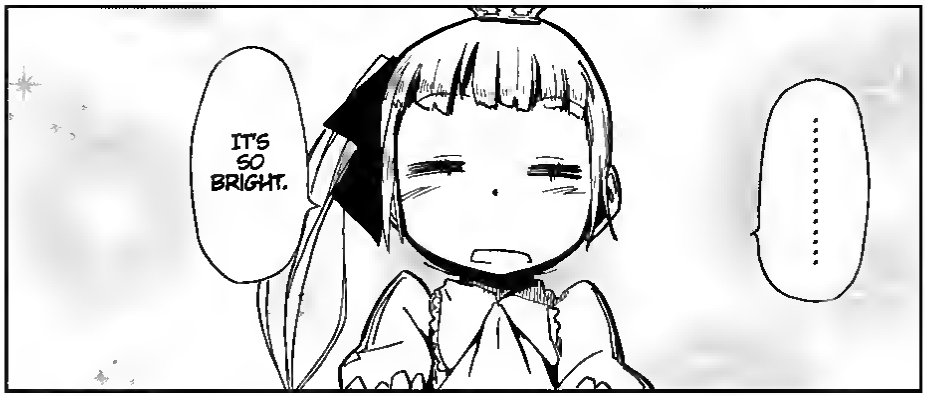
AND YOUR LAST NAME?
I DON'T KNOW...

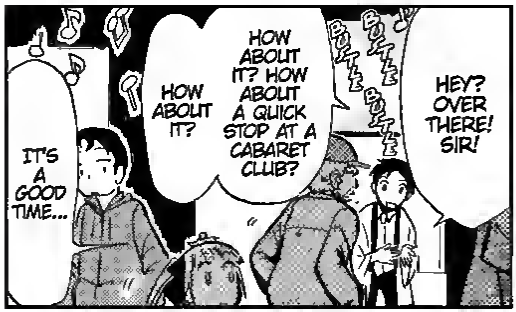

.....
SANA.



I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES BEFORE THE LAB.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY TOOK ME FROM.
I DON'T EVEN THINK I HAVE A BIRTH CERTIFI-CATE--OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THE NAME SANA IS SOMETHING THOSE SISTERS THOUGHT UP FOR ME.
THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO CALLED ME BY NAME.
BACK THERE... EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS MY ENEMY.
.....
COME WITH ME.

KANKO-JUJA


IT'S SO BRIGHT.
.....

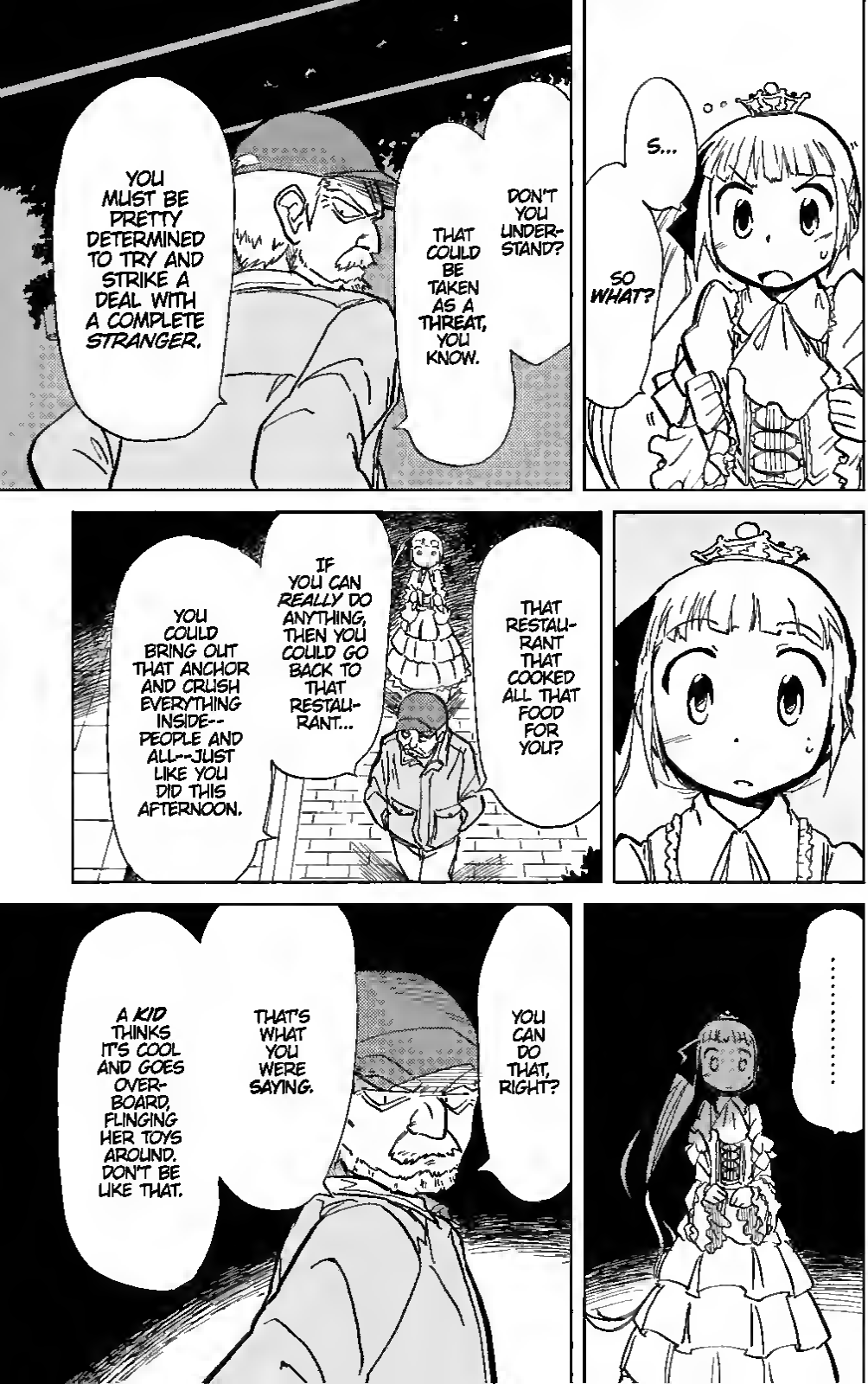

HEY? OVER THERE! SIR!
HOW ABOUT IT? HOW ABOUT A QUICK STOP AT A CABARET CLUB?
HOW ABOUT IT?
IT'S A GOOD TIME...
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

HEY! WHAT KIND OF STORE IS THAT?
IS IT FREE?
BE QUIET.
BE QUIET AND KEEP WALK-ING.
FREE
DOWNTOWN

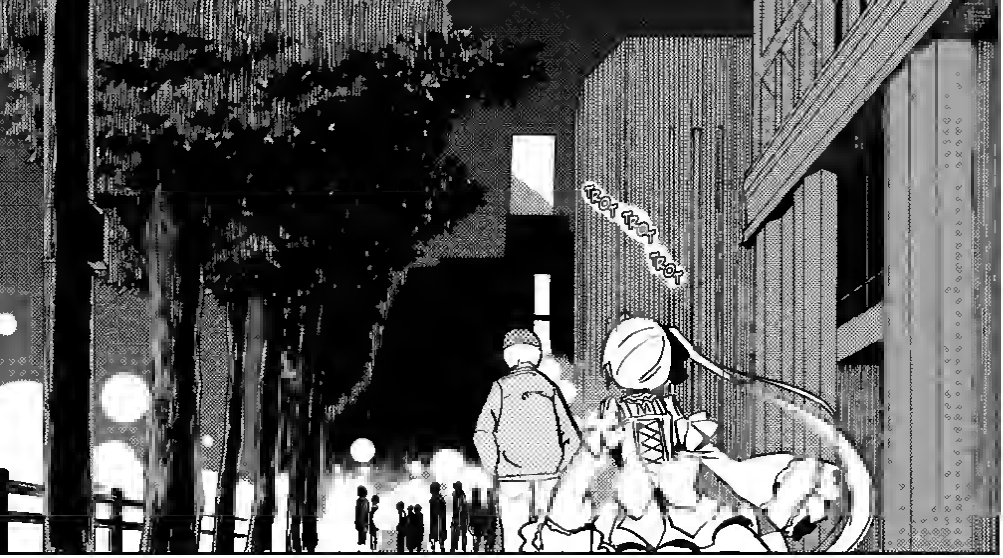
PAY ATTENTION. DON'T GET LOST.
I *TOLD* YOU, DIDN'T I? THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF PLACE KIDS LIKE YOU SHOULD LOITER.

OKAY.
WE'LL START OFF WITH ONE WEEK FOR NOW.
DURING THAT TIME, I HAVE TO WORK, TOO.
SINCE YOU'RE UNDER MY CARE, I'LL HAVE YOU WORK AS WELL. NO WORK, NO FOOD.
AND IN OUR FREE TIME, I'LL CONTACT THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM.
BECAUSE OF MY LINE OF WORK, I GO TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT PLACES-- SO I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THAT WORK FOR YOU?
.....

I KNEW YOU WERE A GOOD GUY!
YEP!
JUST LIKE I SAW--- OW, OW, OW!
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO TALK PROPERLY?
YOU HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOUR ELDERS WITH RESPECT.
GRMM GRMM GRMM
DON'T GET ME WRONG. I FEEL BAD FOR YOU--- BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SPOIL YOU.
NNGH...
ONE MORE THING...
DON'T YOU USE THAT WEIRD POWER OF YOURS AGAIN. EVER.
WH-WHY NOT?!
I-I CAN DO ANYTHING, YOU KNOW! DON'T YOU WANT YOUR WISH GRANTED?
AND BESIDES, I WANT TO DESTROY THE LAB. I HAVE TO!
YOU MENTIONED MY NAME AND MY FAMILY THIS AFTERNOON, DIDN'T YOU?


YOU MUST BE PRETTY DETERMINED TO TRY AND STRIKE A DEAL WITH A COMPLETE STRANGER.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT COULD BE TAKEN AS A THREAT, YOU KNOW.
S...
SO WHAT?
YOU COULD BRING OUT THAT ANCHOR AND CRUSH EVERYTHING INSIDE-- PEOPLE AND ALL--JUST LIKE YOU DID THIS AFTERNOON.
IF YOU CAN REALLY DO ANYTHING, THEN YOU COULD GO BACK TO THAT RESTAU-RANT...
THAT RESTAU-RANT THAT COOKED ALL THAT FOOD FOR YOU?
A KID THINKS IT'S COOL AND GOES OVER-BOARD, FLINGING HER TOYS AROUND. DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.
YOU CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?
.....

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING.
DEALS? WISHES? NOT INTERESTED.
PEOPLE SHOULD APPRECIATE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF THEM. THAT'S ENOUGH.
LABS, EXPERIMENTS, WHATEVER! THOSE ARE ADULT PROBLEMS. AN ADULT SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
YOU'VE GOT TO FIX YOUR ATTITUDE FIRST.
IF YOUR FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU, THEN THINK ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS.
GOT IT?
.....
O-OKAY...
GOT IT.

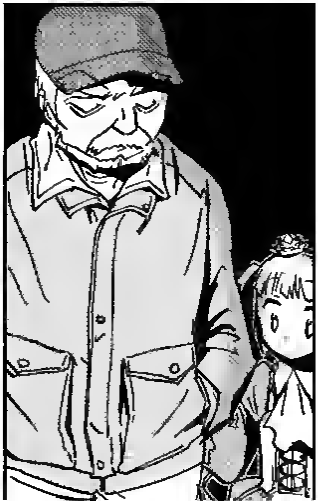

TROT TROT TROT

WHAT?
VRRROOOO

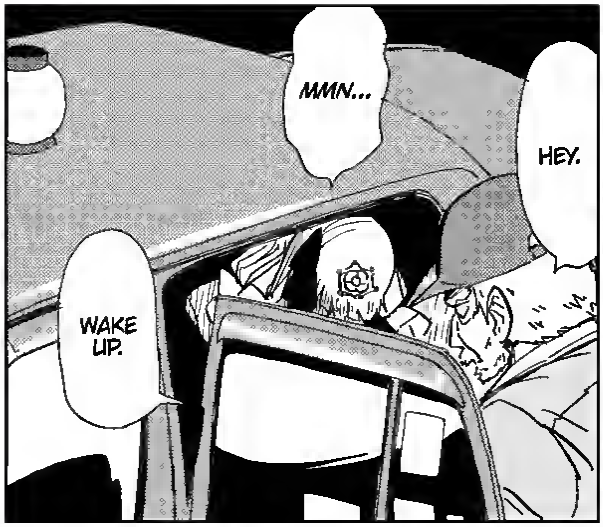
GRROOO
ZOROKU.

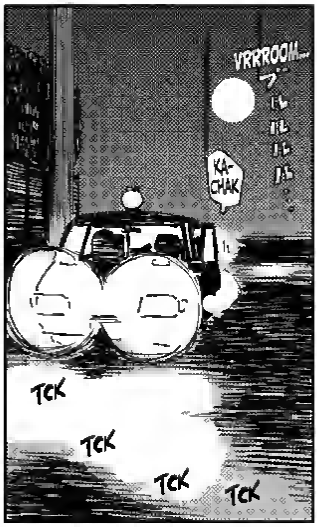
VROOOOM
VRRSHH

NOTH-
ING.

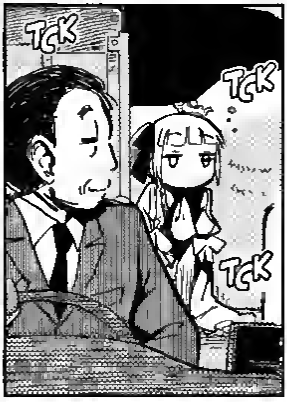


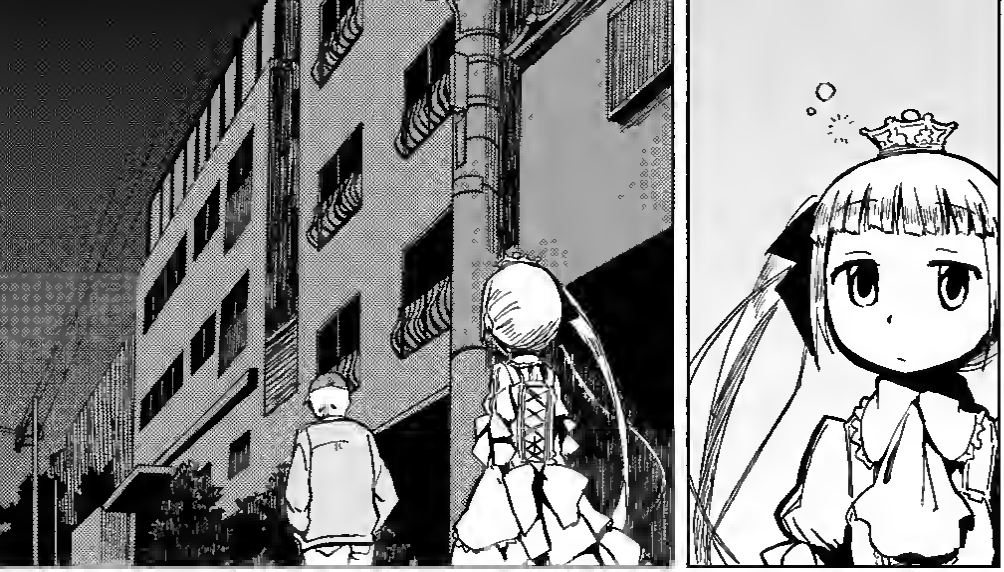
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPEAK TO YOUR ELDERS, DO YOU?

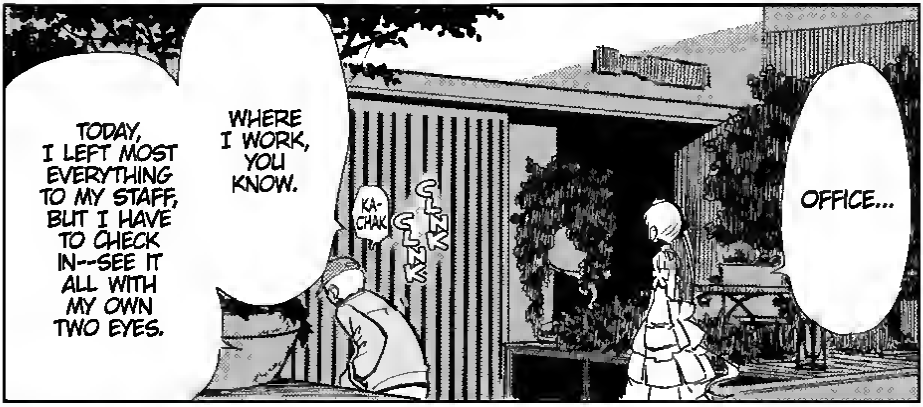

MMN...
HEY.
WAKE UP.

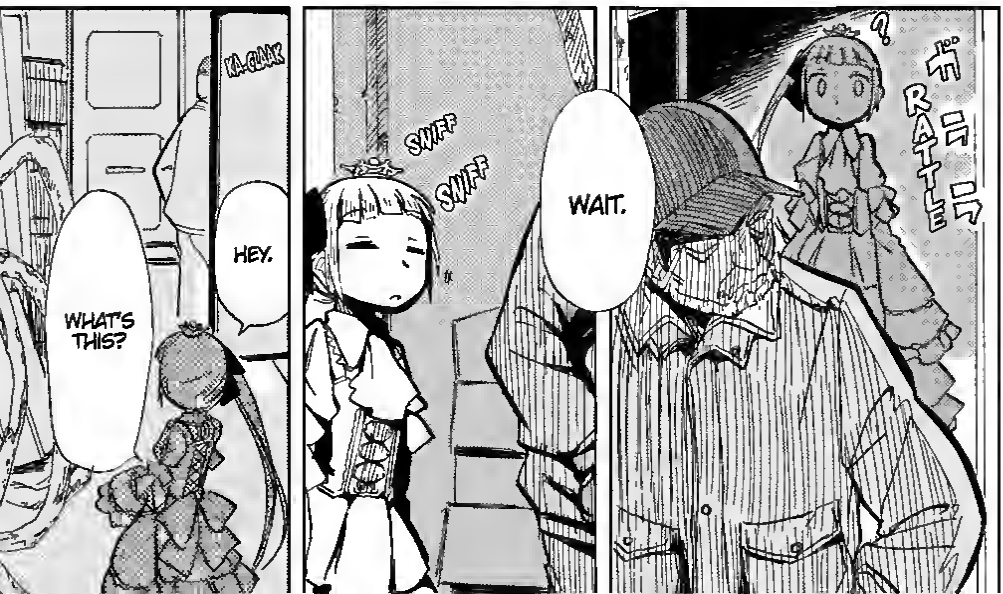

VRRROOM...
KA-CHAK
TCK
TCK
TCK
TCK

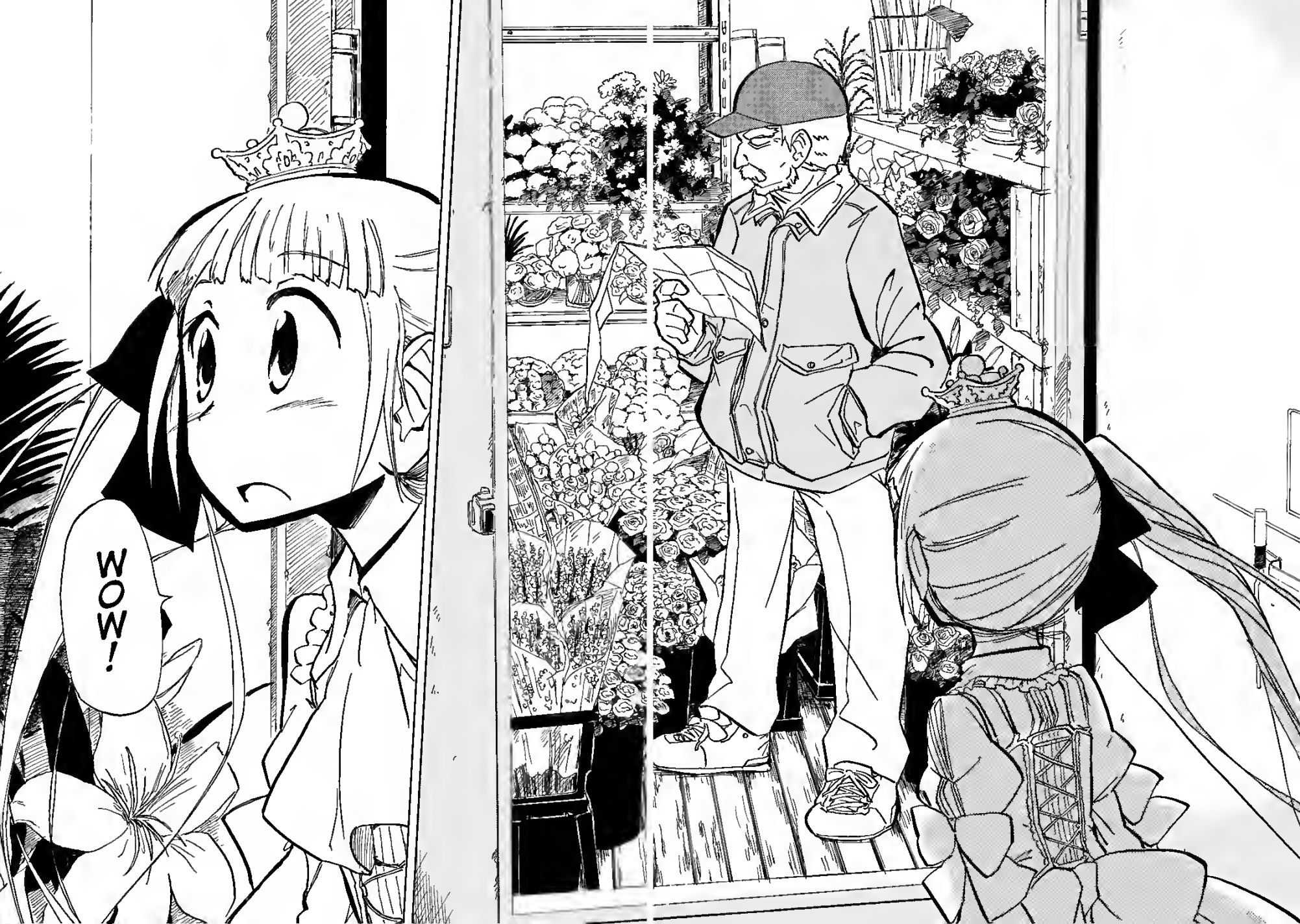
I'M GOING TO HEAD TO THE OFFICE FOR A BIT. YOU JUST NEED TO HANG IN THERE FOR A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?
I CAN TELL. THE MOMENT YOU SAT DOWN, YOU DRIFTED RIGHT OFF TO SLEEP.
SLEEPY...


TCK
TCK
TCK



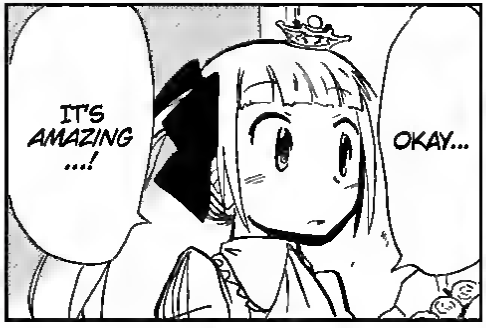

OFFICE...
KA-CHAK
WHERE I WORK, YOU KNOW.
TODAY, I LEFT MOST EVERYTHING TO MY STAFF, BUT I HAVE TO CHECK IN--SEE IT ALL WITH MY OWN TWO EYES.


?
RATTLE
WAIT.
SWIFF
SWIFF
KA-CHAK
HEY.
WHAT'S THIS?


WOW!

WOW!

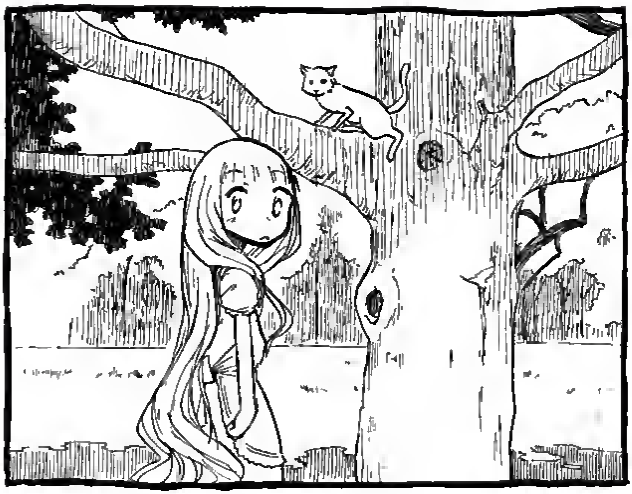
I'M A FLORIST.
WE'RE NOT A STORE. WE SPECIALIZE IN CREATING ARRANGEMENTS OF FLOWERS--FOR EVENTS, THAT SORT OF THING.


OKAY...
IT'S AMAZING ...!

.....
YOU CAN WATCH, BUT THEY'RE ALL READY TO BE DELIVERED--SO DON'T TOUCH THEM.

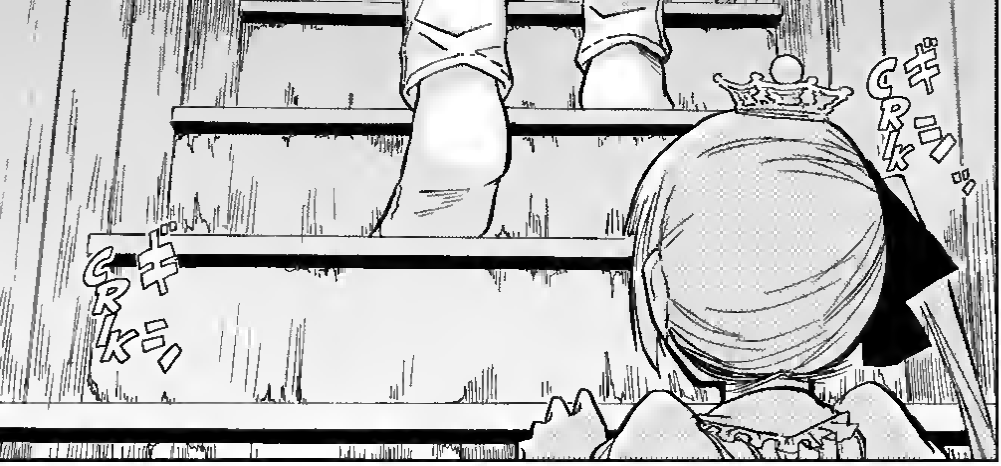
Arrangement of engagement ring and driftwood, a memento from their time on a beach in Atami.
FIDGET FIDGET
SERIOUSLY?!!
THIS IS HIS CHANCE OF A LIFETIME, MORON!!
IDIOT! HE'S PROPOSING!!
SENPAI! WHY IS SAWAKI-SAN SO DRESSED UP TODAY?!

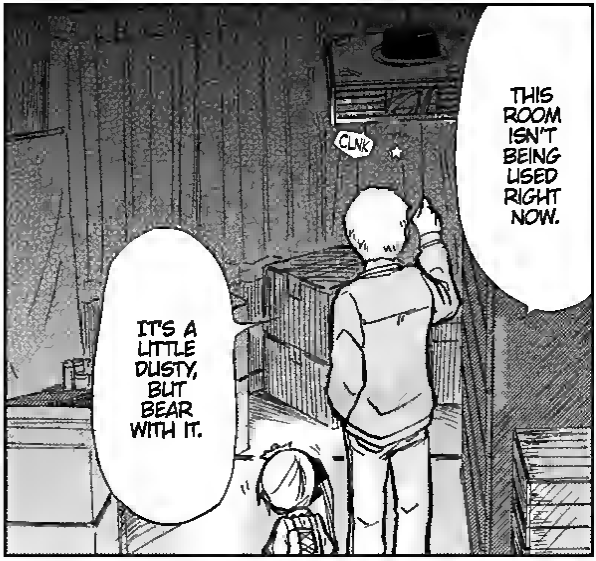
Alice & Zoroku

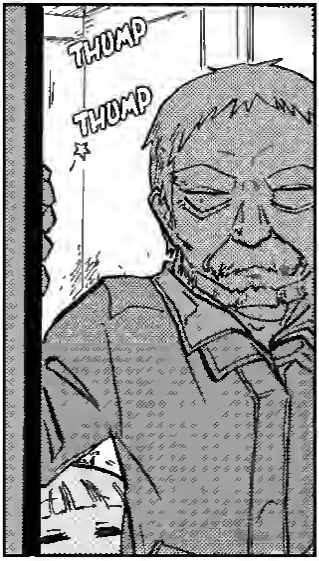


◆◆◆

"That depends
a good deal on where you want to get to,"
said the Cat.

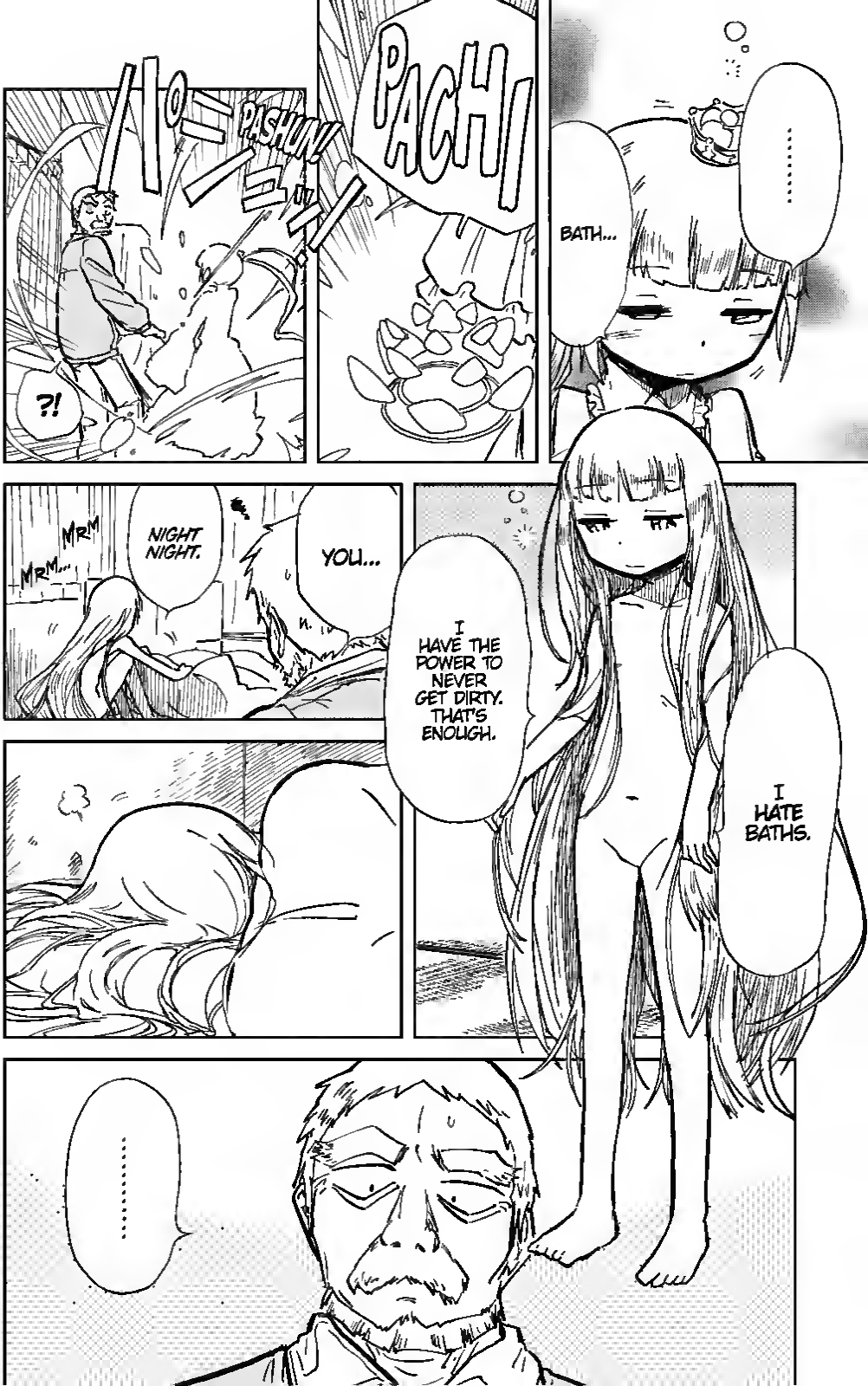

GRIK
GRIK


CLNK
THIS ROOM ISN'T BEING USED RIGHT NOW.
IT'S A LITTLE DUSTY, BUT BEAR WITH IT.


THUMP
THUMP

YOU CAN USE THESE PAJAMAS. THEY USED TO BELONG TO MY GRANDKID.
FLIP
FLIP
AND TOMORROW, YOU CAN TAKE A BATH.
THAT GOOD?

WHRRRR
CLICK
SHINE
.....


PACHI
PSHUU
?!
BATH...
I HATE BATHS.
I HAVE THE POWER TO NEVER GET DIRTY. THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU...
NIGHT NIGHT.
MRM
MRM...

Chapter.2
Dream of the Triangular Room

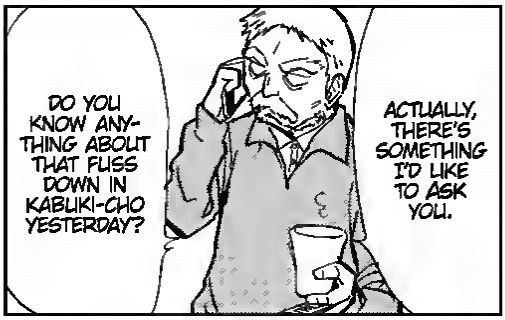
KRRR...

The police and fire department are further investigating the cause.
The fire destroyed the third floor of the Tokyo public housing complex, damaging an area of more than 200 square meters; however, no injuries were reported.

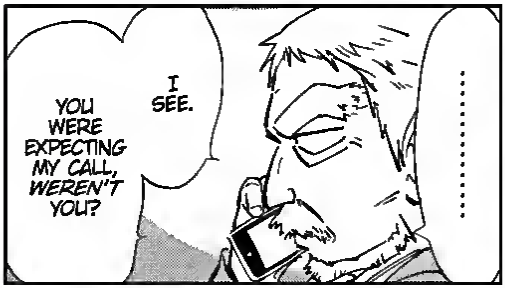
CLICK
We're discussing the new drama, debuting tonight at nine--
POWER
CLICK
Now, we'll continue with the latest traffic--
Tune in for more later.
POWER
.....

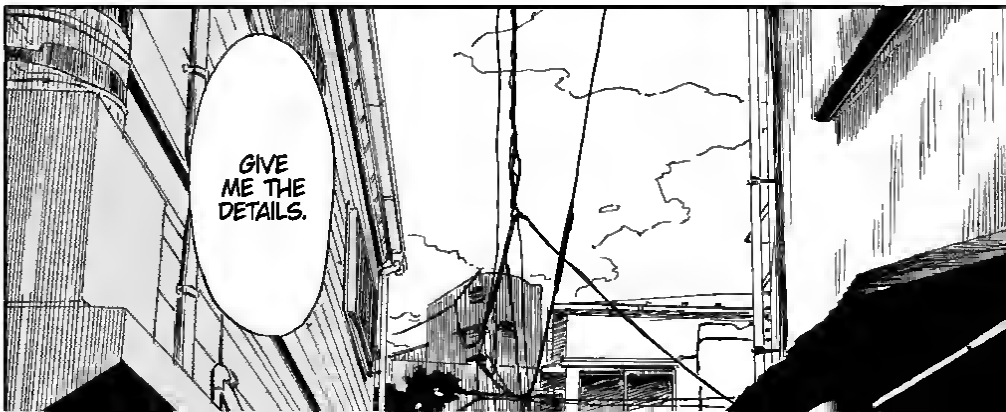
CLICK
NOTHING ON THE NEWS OR IN THE PAPERS, HMM?
THE INCIDENT FROM YESTER-DAY...
CLICK
In Wisconsin, in the United States, a--
Next, we have news of a little doggie that's a bit different.
"I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, ROKU-SAN, BUT PLEASE JUST TRY TO FORGET THE WHOLE THING."
"IT'S A PRETTY RAW DEAL, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. MY BOSS IS A PIG.

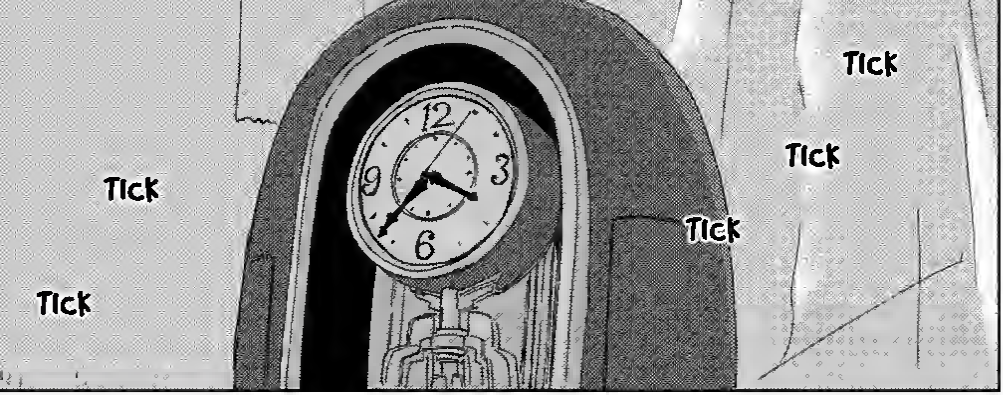
HELLO?
YEAH, IT'S ME. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SORRY. I KNOW IT'S EARLY IN THE MORNING.
YEAH.

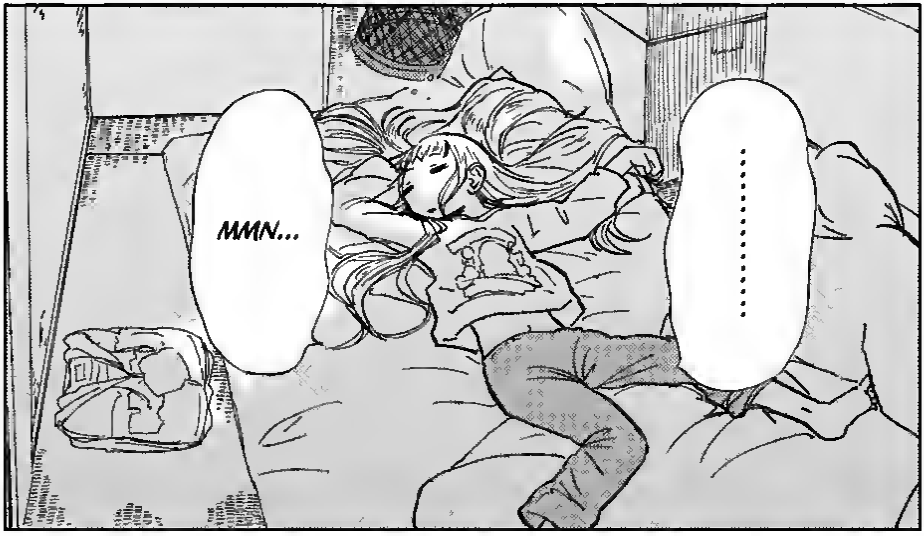

ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT FUSS DOWN IN KABUKI-CHO YESTERDAY?

.....
BUSTLE BUSTLE
MURMUR

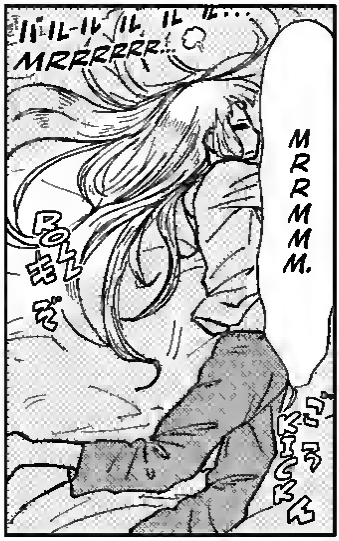

.....
I SEE.
YOU WERE EXPECTING MY CALL, WEREN'T YOU?

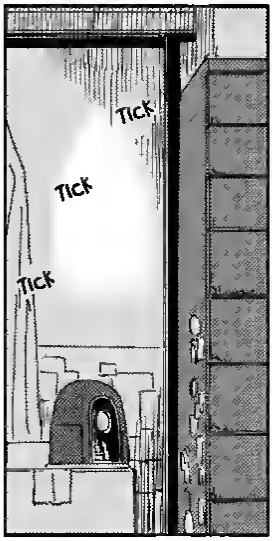

GIVE ME THE DETAILS.


TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK


MMN...
.....

スンンン...
TOSSING
スンンン...


MRRRRR...
MRRMM.
ボヒヒ
ぞ
ごろごろ


TICK
TICK
TICK

FSHHHH
SHAAAAAA
ヒュオオオ
BYUOOOO
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
SHAAAAAA
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
SHAAAAAA
SPLISH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
IS THIS WHAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS LIKE?
IT'S PITCH DARK AND I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.
MY HAIR AND CLOTHES ARE CLINGING TO MY BODY.
COLD.
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH

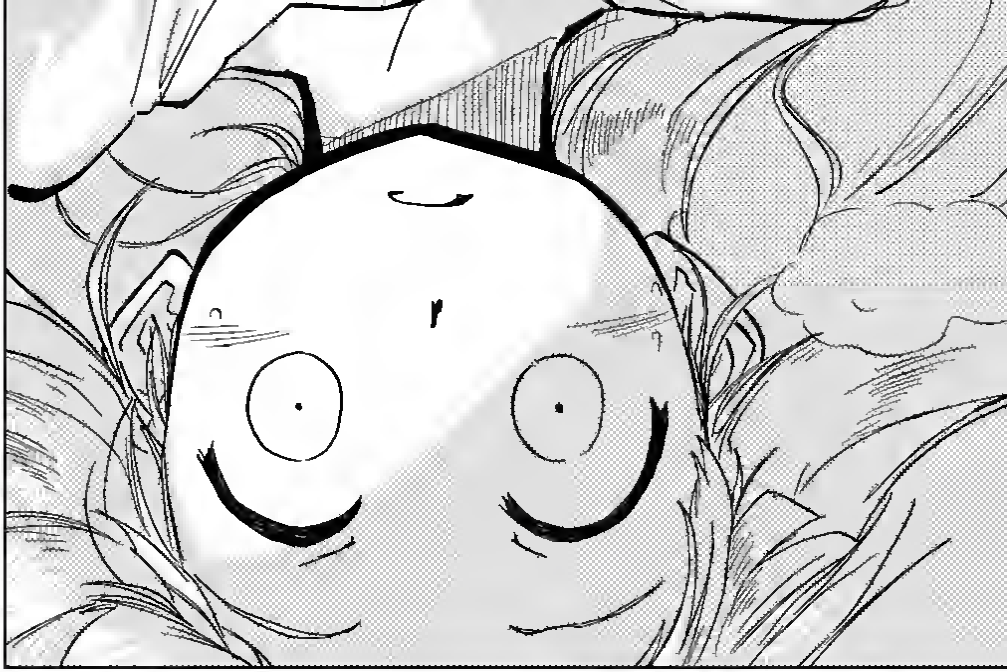
WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO GO...
"RED QUEEN"?
SHAA
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
SHAAAAA
!
PLSH
PLSH
GWOOOOO
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
SHAAAA
DRIP
DRIP
LET US GO HOME WHERE IT'S WARM. EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU.
IT'S PRACTICALLY A TYPHOON. STOP BEING STUBBORN.
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT.
G...
GO AWAY!!
SHAAAAA

FLINCH
?!
JERK
I DON'T WANT TO!
SHAAA
IT'S JUST RAIN! WITH MY...
PACHI
SEE?
SPLASH
JUST LIKE THAT. YOU RUN OUT OF ENERGY SO QUICKLY.
SHAAAA
SHAAAAA
YOU MAKE WHATEVER YOU IMAGINE INTO REALITY, DON'T YOU?
BUT THAT WASTES A LOT OF ENERGY, DOESN'T IT?
AND NOW THAT YOU'RE OUTSIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME... HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU USED YOUR POWERS ALREADY?
YOUR BODY CAN'T HANDLE IT.
PACHI
YOU CAN IMAGINE SOMETHING, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO IT.
TO USE YOUR POWER EFFECTIVELY IS ACTUALLY A VERY *DIFFICULT* THING TO DO.
YOU'VE FELT THE REALITY OF A VIOLENT STORM WITH YOUR OWN FIVE SENSES. CAN YOU *TRULY* IMAGINE YOURSELF COMPLETELY DRY?
BYUOOOOO

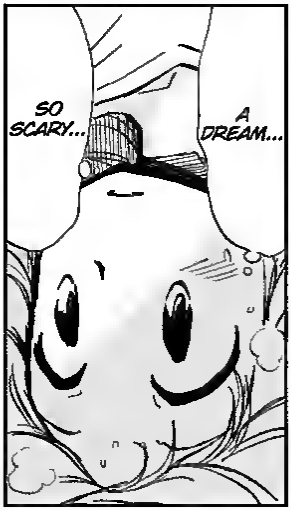
GRM
GRM
GRM
GRM
IT'S NAÏVE TO THINK THAT YOU CAN REALLY MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH ONLY YOUR IMAGINATION.
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO USE YOUR POWERS MORE EFFICIENTLY IF YOU HAD STAYED LOCKED UP IN WONDERLAND.
.....
!
PAKIKIN
KOOO
DAMN IT---!
WHO'S THERE?!
PACHI
GAKIN!

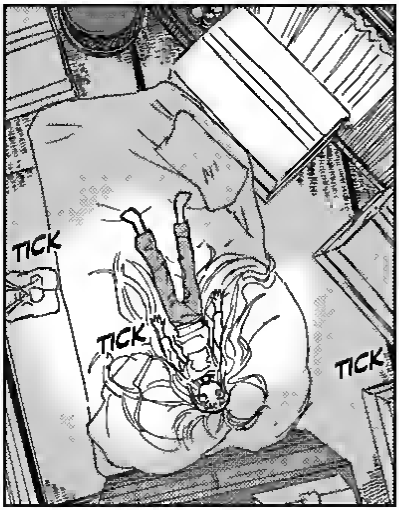
RUN ...!!
AND CON-CEN-TRATE!
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOME-THING!!
THERE IS A VERY BIG CITY FAR, FAR ALONG THIS ROAD.
GO THERE AND MAKE AS BIG A FUSS AS YOU CAN.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
WHO IS IT?
WHO JUST SPOKE TO ME?
KRK
ANGE LADE

SHHHNK
!!!
AAAH!
NGH!
PKRK
KRK
KRK
AH!
OOO
OOO

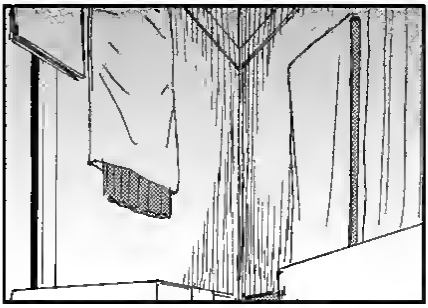


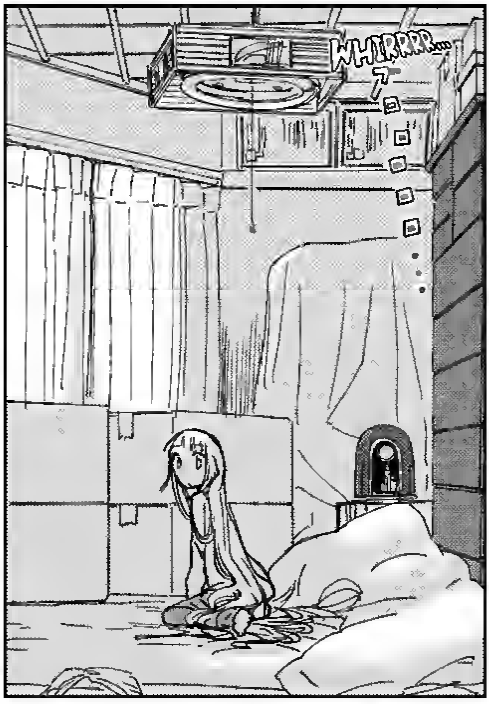
PHEWooo

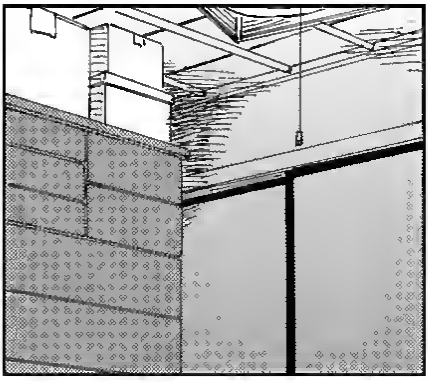

SO SCARY...
A DREAM...

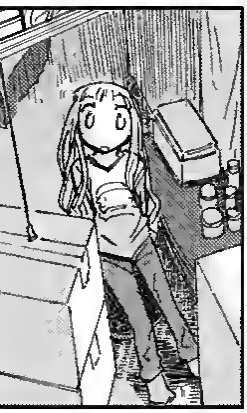

TICK
TICK
TICK

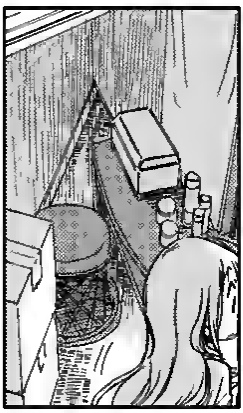
GROGGY




WHIRRRR...



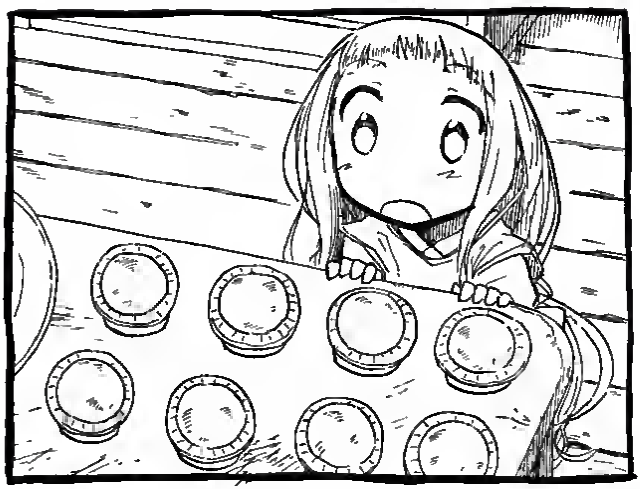




I RAN AWAY FROM THE LAB AND CAME TO ZOROKU'S HOUSE.
THAT'S RIGHT...

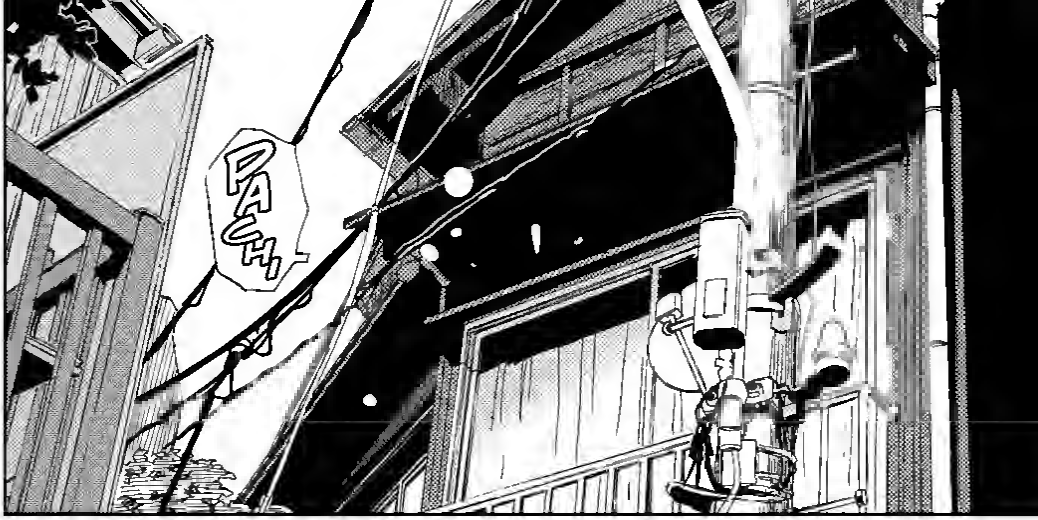
RATTLE
SIGH
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
OOOH! ARE YOU UP?
YOU SLEPT WELL, DIDN'T YOUUU?
BA-THUMP
WHO ARE YOU?
OOOH!
WH...
YOU FLEW! AMAAAZ-ING!
?
PACHI
FL-ZUH
?!
OOOH, RIGHT! I'M KASHIMURA ZOROKU'S GRAND-DAUGHTER-- SANAE.
NICE TO MEET YOUUU!
HE TOLD ME TO GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT WHEN YOU GOT UP.
UMM, YOU KNOW WHAT...? GRANDPA WENT TO WORK, SOOOO...
?!

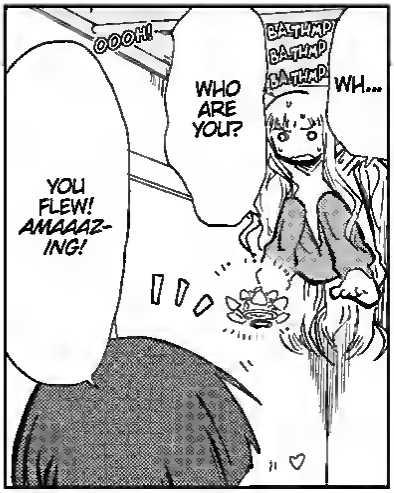
Alice & Zoroku

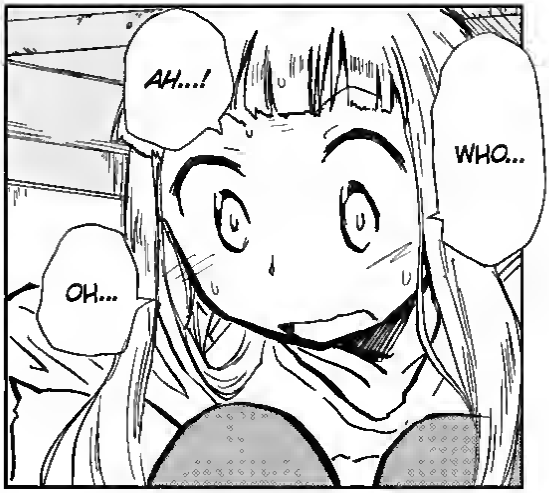


• ◆ •

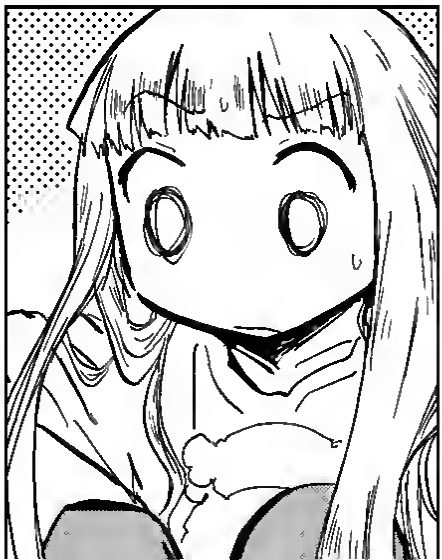
"The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts,
All on a summer day:
The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts,
And took them quite away!"


PACH


OOOH!
BATHUP
BATHUP
BATHUP
WH...
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU FLEW! AMAAAZ-ING!


AH...!
WHO...
OH...

HE TOLD ME TO GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT WHEN YOU GOT UP.
UMMM, YOU KNOW WHAT...?
GRANDPA WENT TO WORK, SOOOO...

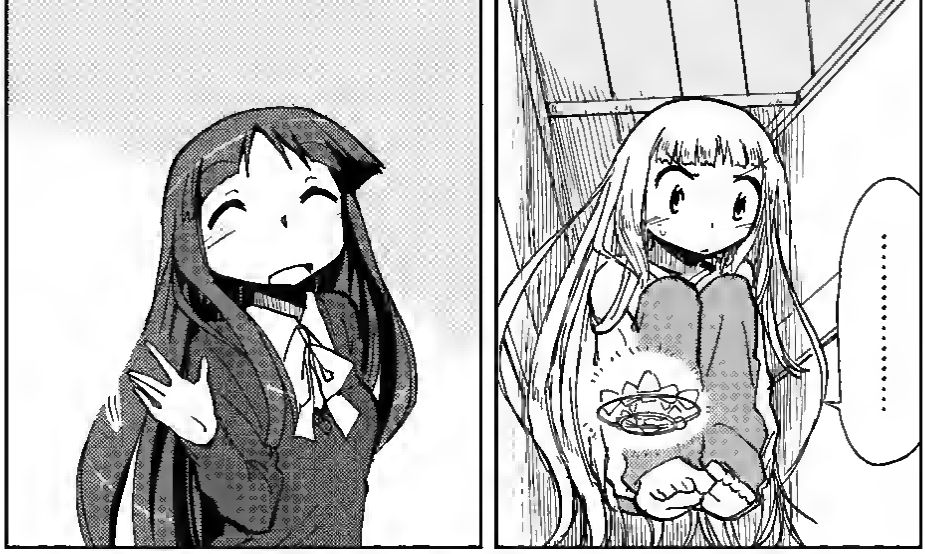


OOOH, RIGHT! I'M KASHIMURA ZOROKU'S GRAND-DAUGHTER-- SANAE.
NICE TO MEET YOUUU!
ZO...
EAT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
GRAND-DAUGH-TER?
I CAME HERE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DELIIICIOUS FOOD AND SNACKS.
TA-DA~!
I'M THE MEAL FAAAAIRY!
DA-DAAAAN!
AS IF!
.....
OH!
MEAL... WHAT?
WHAT...
UMM... I WAS JUST KID-DING!
HUH?
SOR-RYYY!

Chapter.3
The Meal Fairy Appears

.....
Y...
YOU'RE REALLY ZOROKU'S GRAND-DAUGTHER?
WHAAAT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IS THAT WEEEIRD?
. . . . . .

IT'S WEIRD.
YOU DON'T LOOK ALIKE.
OH DEAR.
IS THAT SO...?
HMM...
THEN, UMMM...
HERE WE GO! "I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING!"
YOU STILL DON'T LOOK ALIKE.
UMMM ...!
YOU KNOW, GRANDPA TOLD ME...
UP TILL NOW, YOU'D BEEN IN A REALLY SCARY PLACE AND HAVE SOME REALLY ICKY MEMORIES.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME!
IF YOU GET HUNGRY, JUST COME ON DOWN--EVEN IF IT'S LATER, OKAAAY?
THEN WE'LL HAVE A SNACK, OKAAAY?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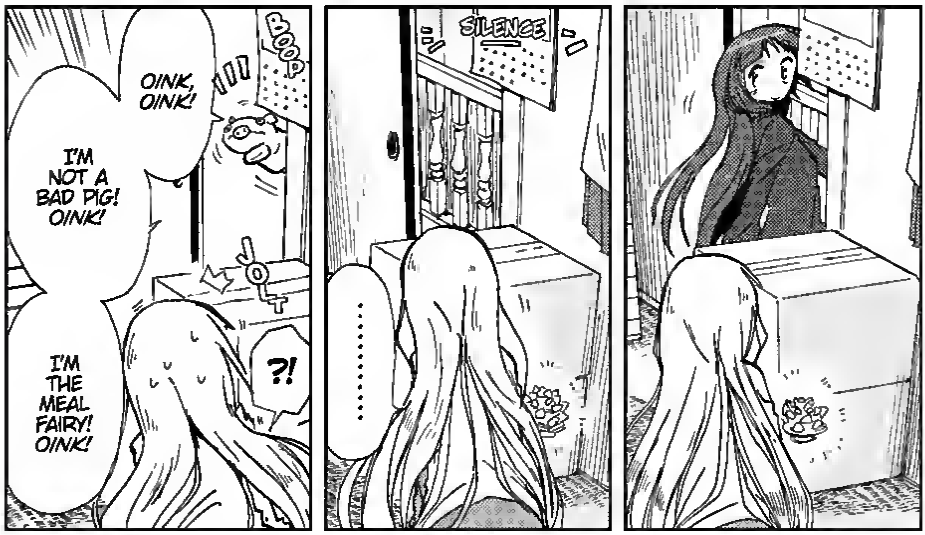
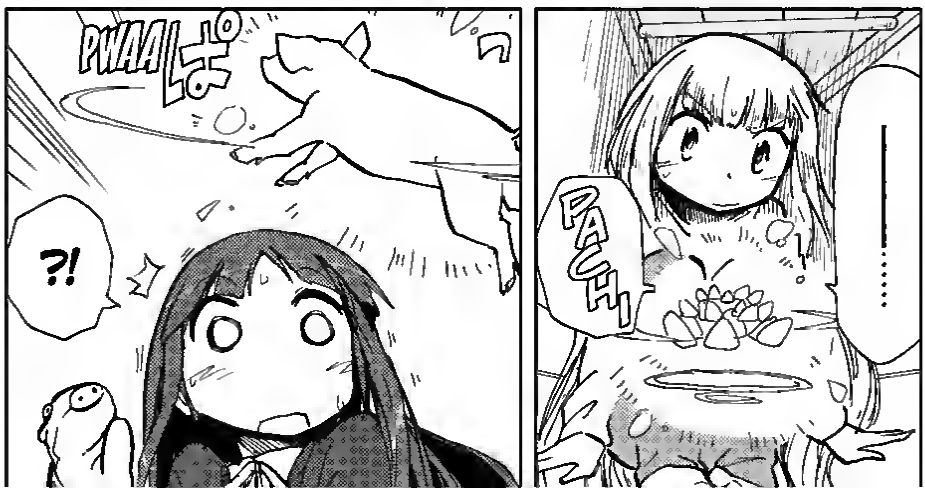
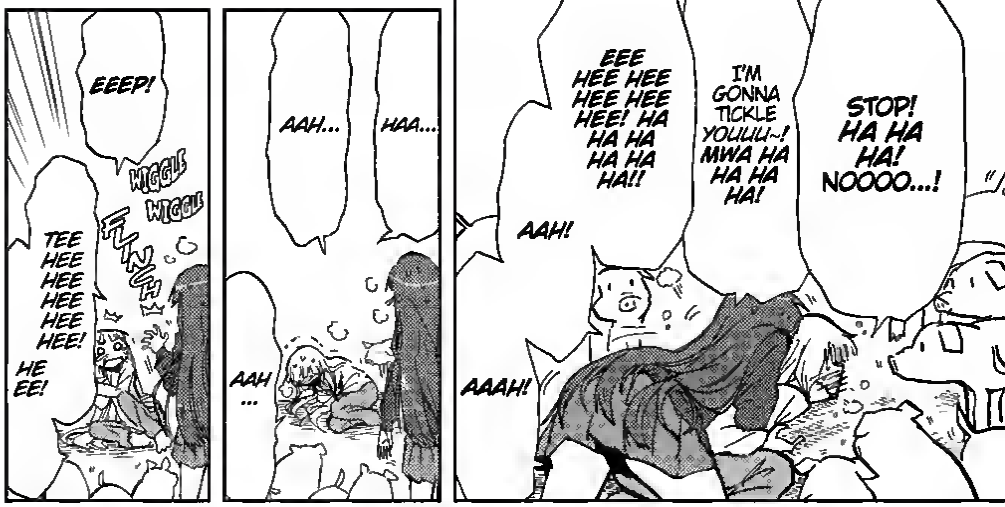
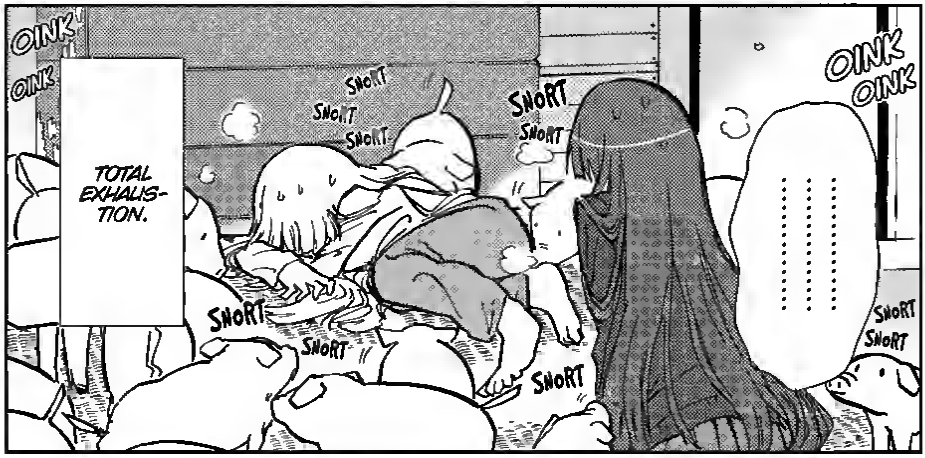

BOOP
OINK, OINK!
I'M NOT A BAD PIG! OINK!
I'M THE MEAL FAIRY! OINK!
?!
SILENCE
.....

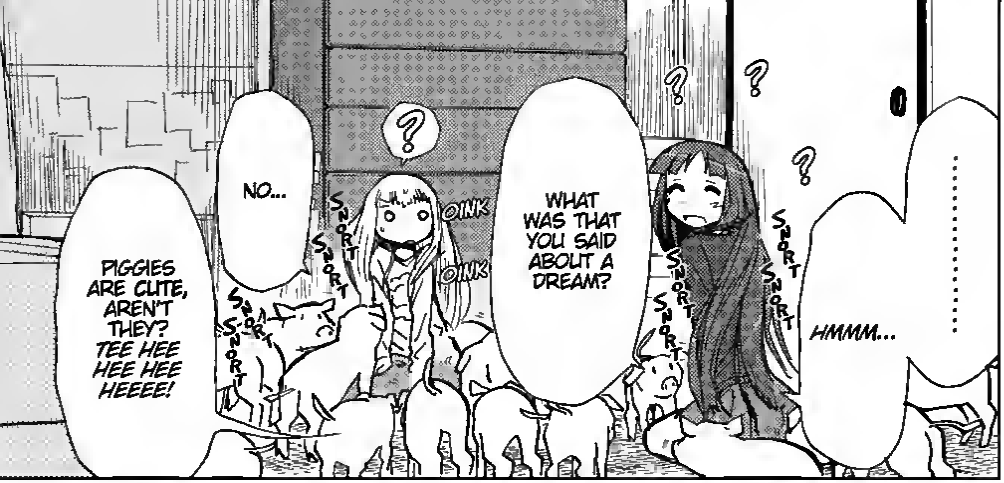

PWAA
?!
PACHI
.....

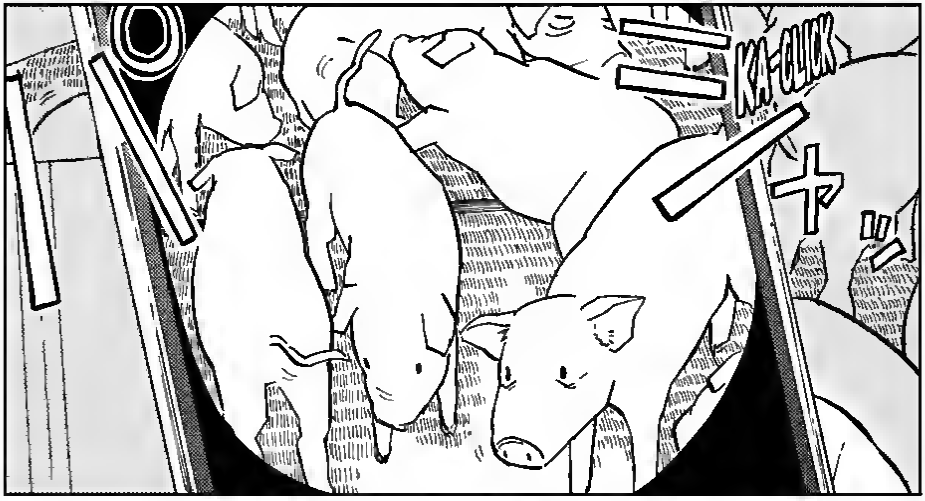
HMPH! WHAT A WEIRDO.
WOW! WAIT...!
REALLY?!
OINK
SNORT
OINK
SNORT
OINK
SNORT
OINK
SNORT
OINK
OINK
OINK
WHAT'S THIS?!!
PIGS?!
BOTO
BOTO
BOTO
BOTO
EEEK!
"ALICE'S DREAM" CAN MAKE ANYTHING I THINK OF COME TRUE.
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM...
NOOO! STOP...!!
EEK!
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
WHERE DID YOU COOOME FROM?!
THUD
!!!
STOP!
NO!
YOU GET COVERED IN PIGS, TOOOO!!
I'M NOT GOING TO STOP! NOOO WAY!
KLATCH
GOAL
YOUUU...!
AH!
GOT YOUUU!!
GRUNT
DREEE-EAM?!
NO, WAIT...
REEEEALLY?!
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT


EEEP!
WIGGLE WIGGLE
TEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HE EE!
AAH...
HAA....
AAH ...
EEE HEE HEE HEE HEE! HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
I'M GONNA TICKLE YOUUU~! MWA HA HA HA HA!
STOP! HA HA HA! NOOOO...!
AAH!
AAAH!

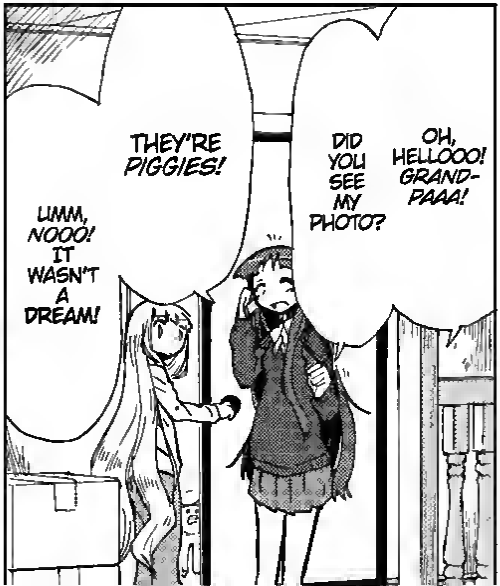

OINK OINK
TOTAL EXHAUS-TION.
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
OINK OINK
SNORT
SNORT

SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
MYS-TEEE-RI-OUS.
OUR NAMES SOUND ALIKE, DON'T THEY?
I'M SANA-EEE...
YOU'RE SANA-CHAN, RIIIGHT?


HMMM...
WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT A DREAM?
SNORT SNORT
OINK
NO...
PIGGIES ARE CUTE, AREN'T THEY? TEE HEE HEE HEE HEEEE!

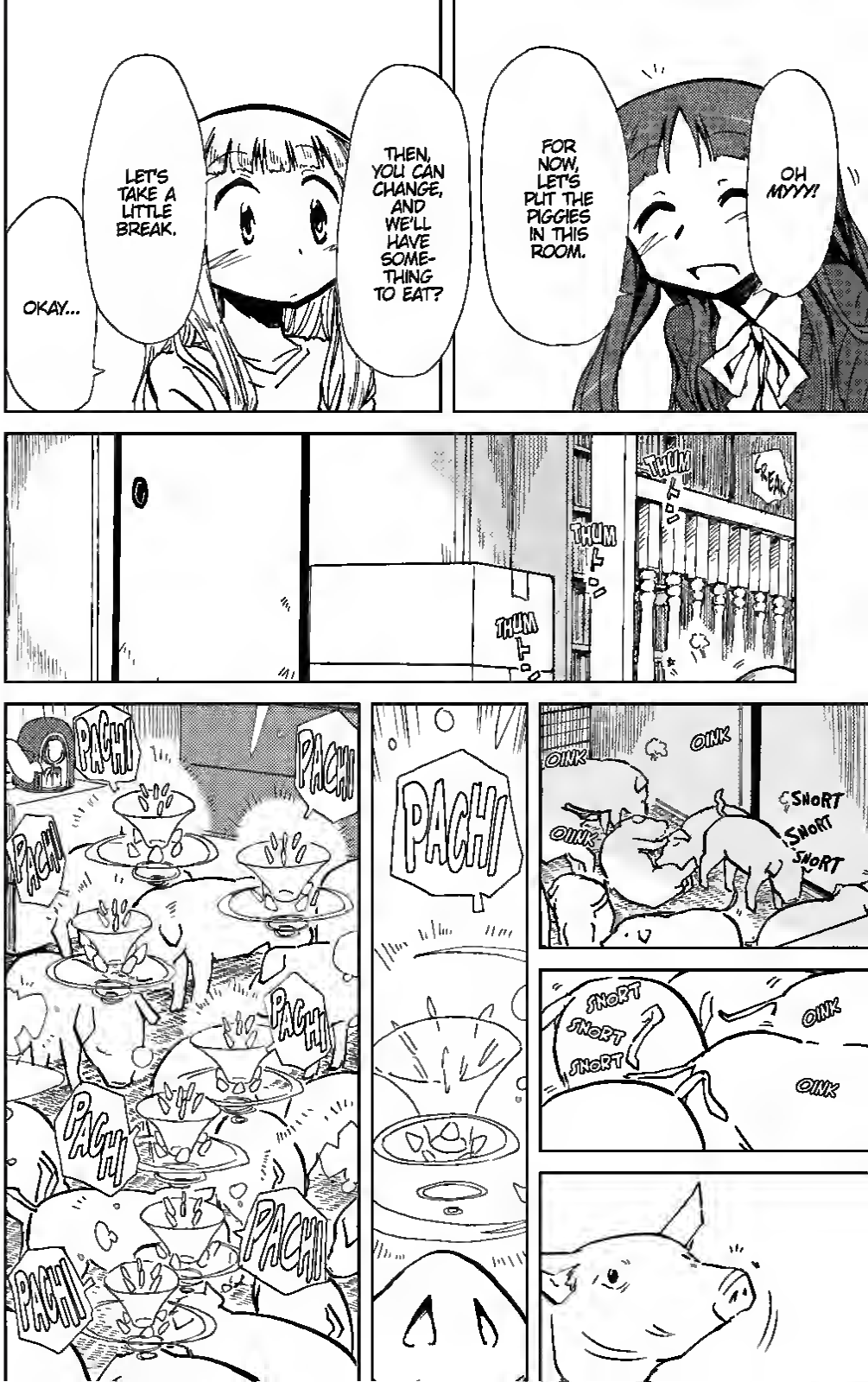

KA-CLICK

STAY RIGHT THERE
UMM, NO ONE'S HURT...
NO... I WAS JUST A LITTLE SURPRISED, LIKE...
WHAT?
THEY'RE ALIVE, YOU KNOOOOW. AND THEY'RE REEEEALLY CUTE AAAND...

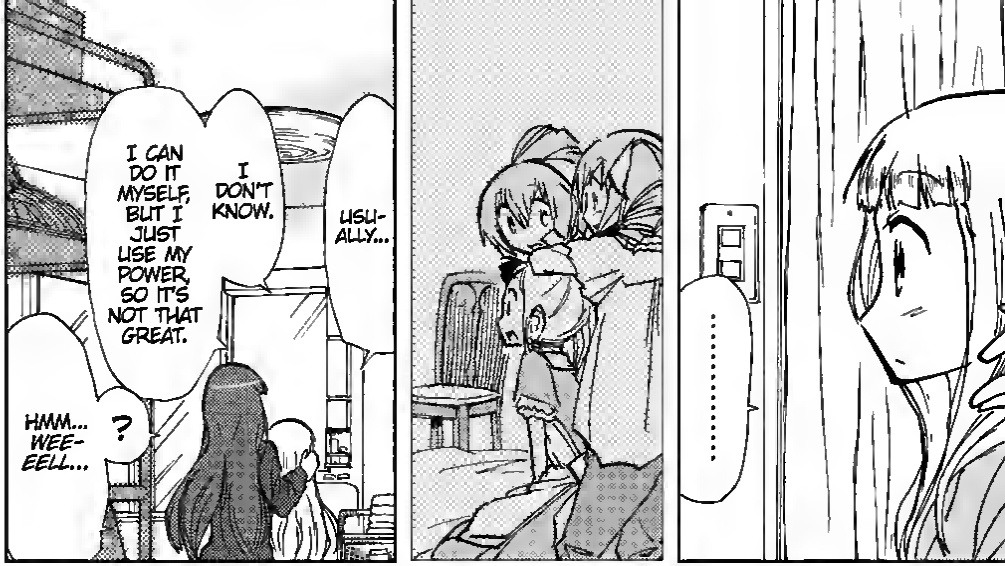

UMM, NOOO! IT WASN'T A DREAM!
THEY'RE PIGGIES!
DID YOU SEE MY PHOTO?
OH, HELLOOO! GRAND-PAAA!

"DON'T YOU USE THAT WEIRD POWER OF YOURS AGAIN. EVER."
"TO USE YOUR POWER EFFECTIVELY IS ACTUALLY A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO DO."
.....
THESE PIGS... WHERE DID THEY REALLY COME FROM?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER WONDERED BEFORE...
AFTER ALL, THESE ARE LIVING CREATURES, AREN'T THEY?
WHERE DO LIVING CREATURES COME FROM?
DID I MAKE THEM?
AND IF I MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR BY USING MY POWER AGAIN, THEN DOES THAT MEAN I'M KILLING THEM?
OINK
OINK
OINK
SNORT
SNORT
!
KRK
ANGIE ALA DE
ISHIYER
YEEES.
I GOT IT.
IT'S FIIINE...
WE'RE GETTING TO BE FRIENDS!
SHE'S A CUTE KID, ISN'T SHE? TEE HEE HEE.
HMM... WELL, YEAAAH...

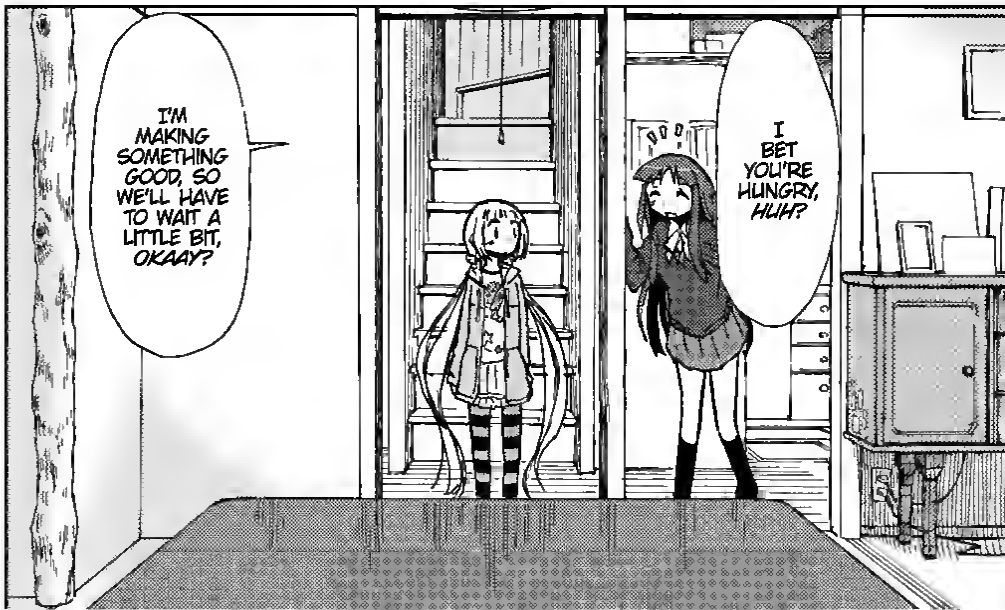
W...
WAS HE MAD?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. ☆
BUT HE WAS SURPRISED, YOU KNOW. HE SAID TO BE REAAAALLY CAREFUL.
YOU HAVE A MYSTERIOUS POWER--DON'T YOU, SANA-CHAN?
YOU WERE A LITTLE SURPRISED, TOOO.
.....
.....
MY BAD.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PIGS.

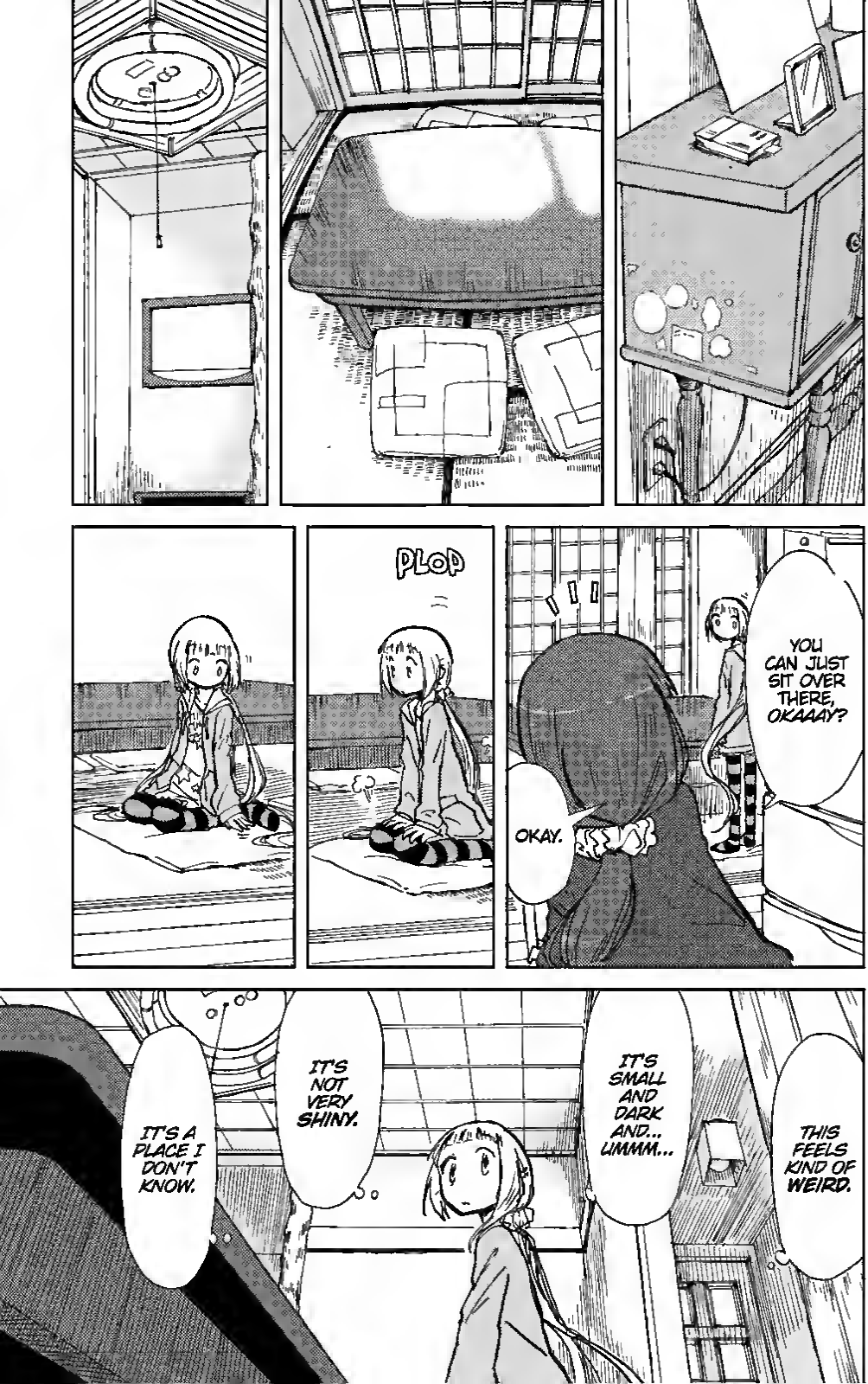

OH MYYY!
FOR NOW, LET'S PUT THE PIGGIES IN THIS ROOM.
THEN, YOU CAN CHANGE, AND WE'LL HAVE SOME-THING TO EAT?
LET'S TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
OKAY...
THUM
THUM
THUM
CREAK
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
OINK
OINK
OINK
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
SNORT
OINK
OINK

I'M SOOO GLAD!
SORRY, ALL WE HAD WERE MY OLD CLOTHES.
.....
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO WITH YOUR HAAAIR?
I'LL STYLE IT FOR YOUUU!
NOT REALLY...
I THINK IT'S... OKAY.
.....
OKAAAY! HOW IS IT?
TOO TIGHT ANY-WHERE?

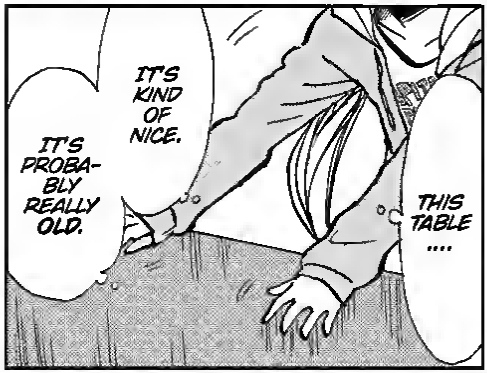

HMM... WEE-EELL...
?
I CAN DO IT MYSELF, BUT I JUST USE MY POWER, SO IT'S NOT THAT GREAT.
I DON'T KNOW.
USU-ALLY...
.....

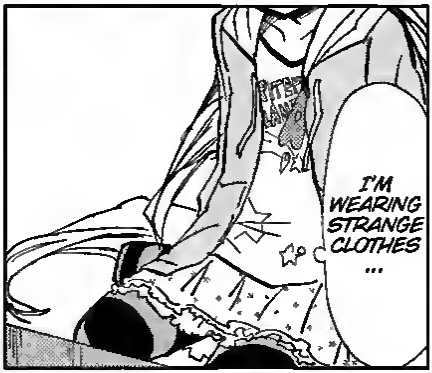
.....
YOUR HAIR IS SO SMOOTH AND SLEEEEK. LUCKYYY!
IN THAT CASE, THIS ONEESAN IS GOING TO MAKE YOU LOOK WAAAAY CUTE! 'KAY?

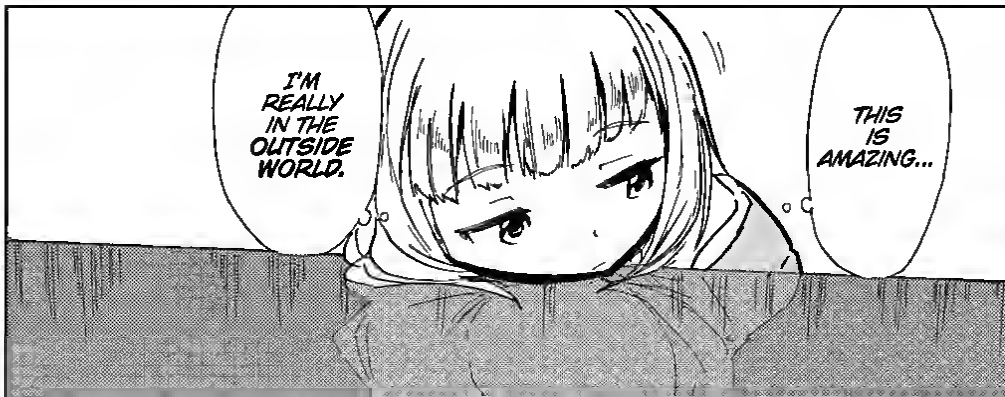

I'M MAKING SOMETHING GOOD, SO WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT, OKAAY?
I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY, HUH?

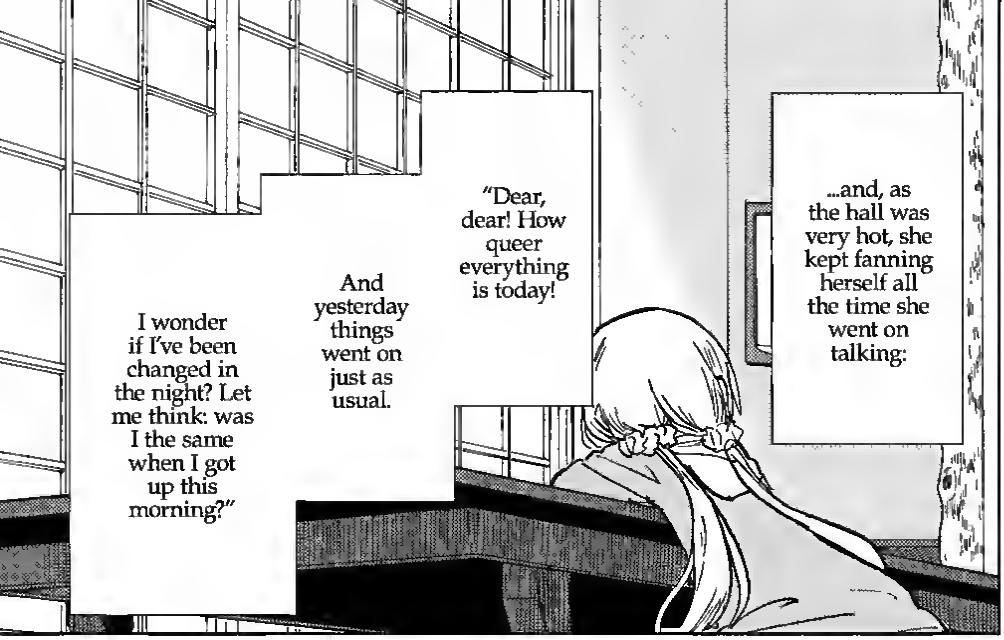

PLOP
YOU CAN JUST SIT OVER THERE, OKAAAY?
OKAY.
THIS FEELS KIND OF WEIRD.
IT'S SMALL AND DARK AND... UMMM...
IT'S NOT VERY SHINY.
IT'S A PLACE I DON'T KNOW.

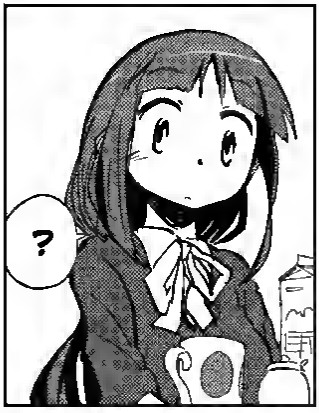
IT'S COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT PLACE.

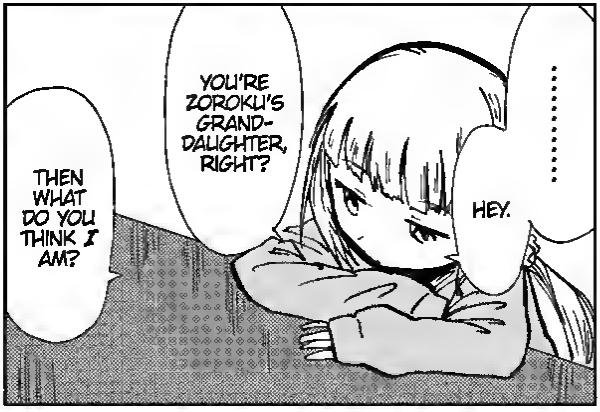

IT'S KIND OF NICE.
IT'S PROBA-BLY REALLY OLD.
THIS TABLE ....


I'M WEARING STRANGE CLOTHES ...

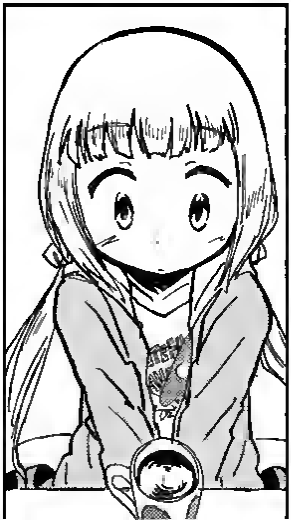

I'M REALLY IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THIS IS AMAZING...

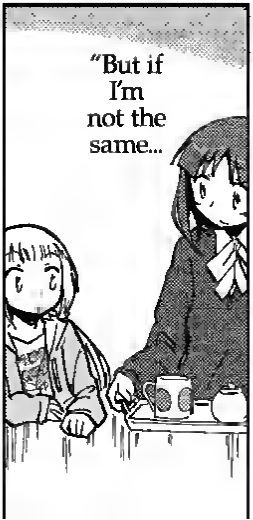

...and, as the hall was very hot, she kept fanning herself all the time she went on talking:
"Dear, dear! How queer everything is today!
And yesterday things went on just as usual.
I wonder if I've been changed in the night? Let me think: was I the same when I got up this morning?"

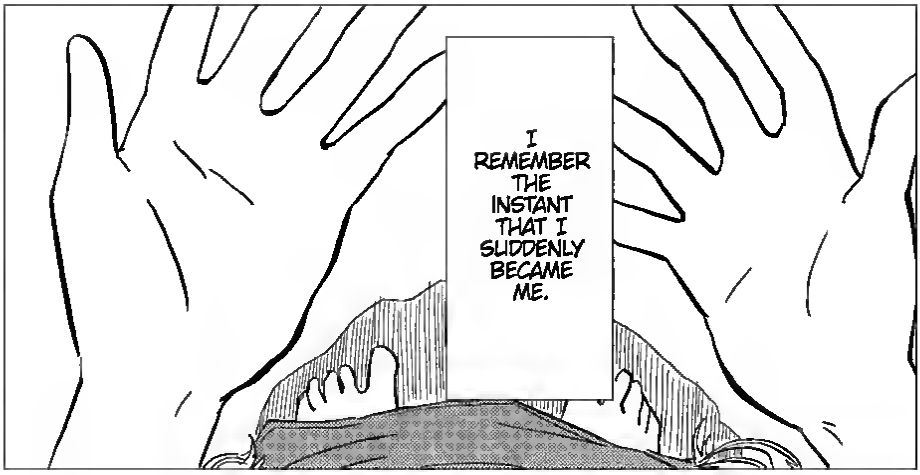

?

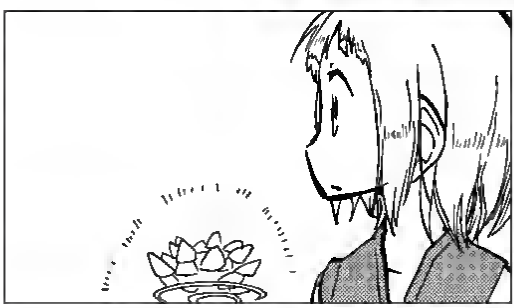

YOU'RE ZOROKU'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
THEN WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
HEY.

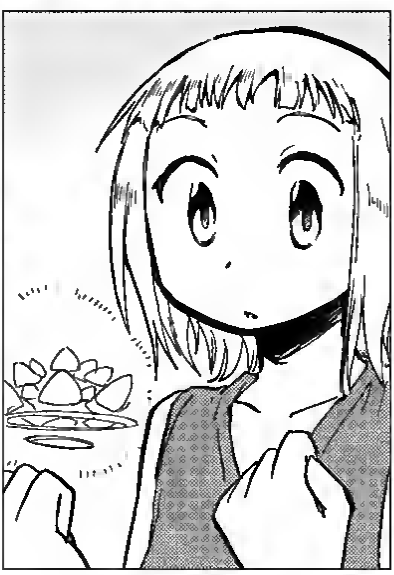
"the next question is, who in the world am I?"

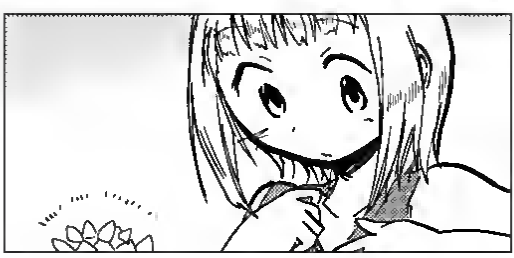


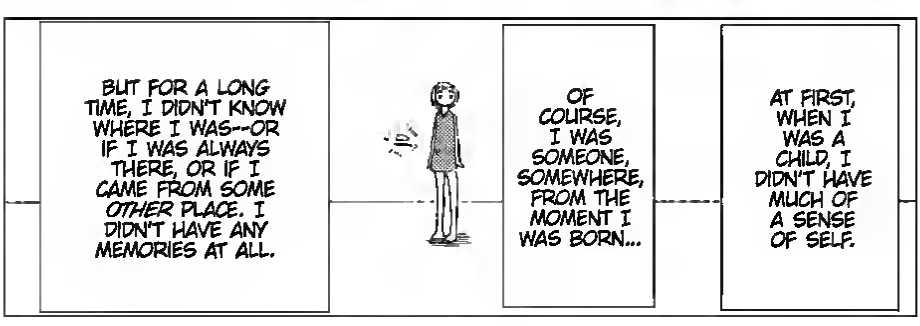

"But if I'm not the same...

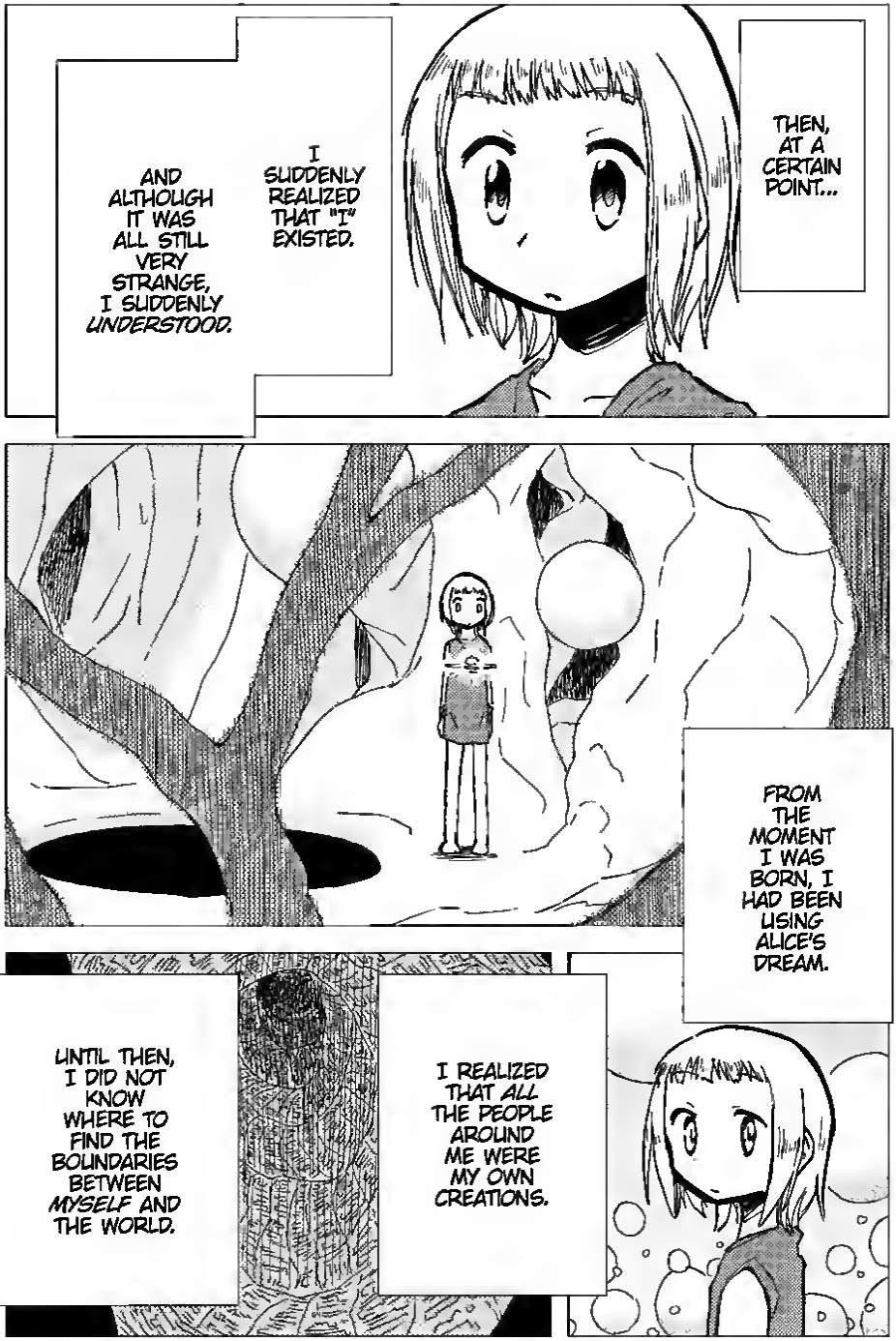

I REMEMBER THE INSTANT THAT I SUDDENLY BECAME ME.





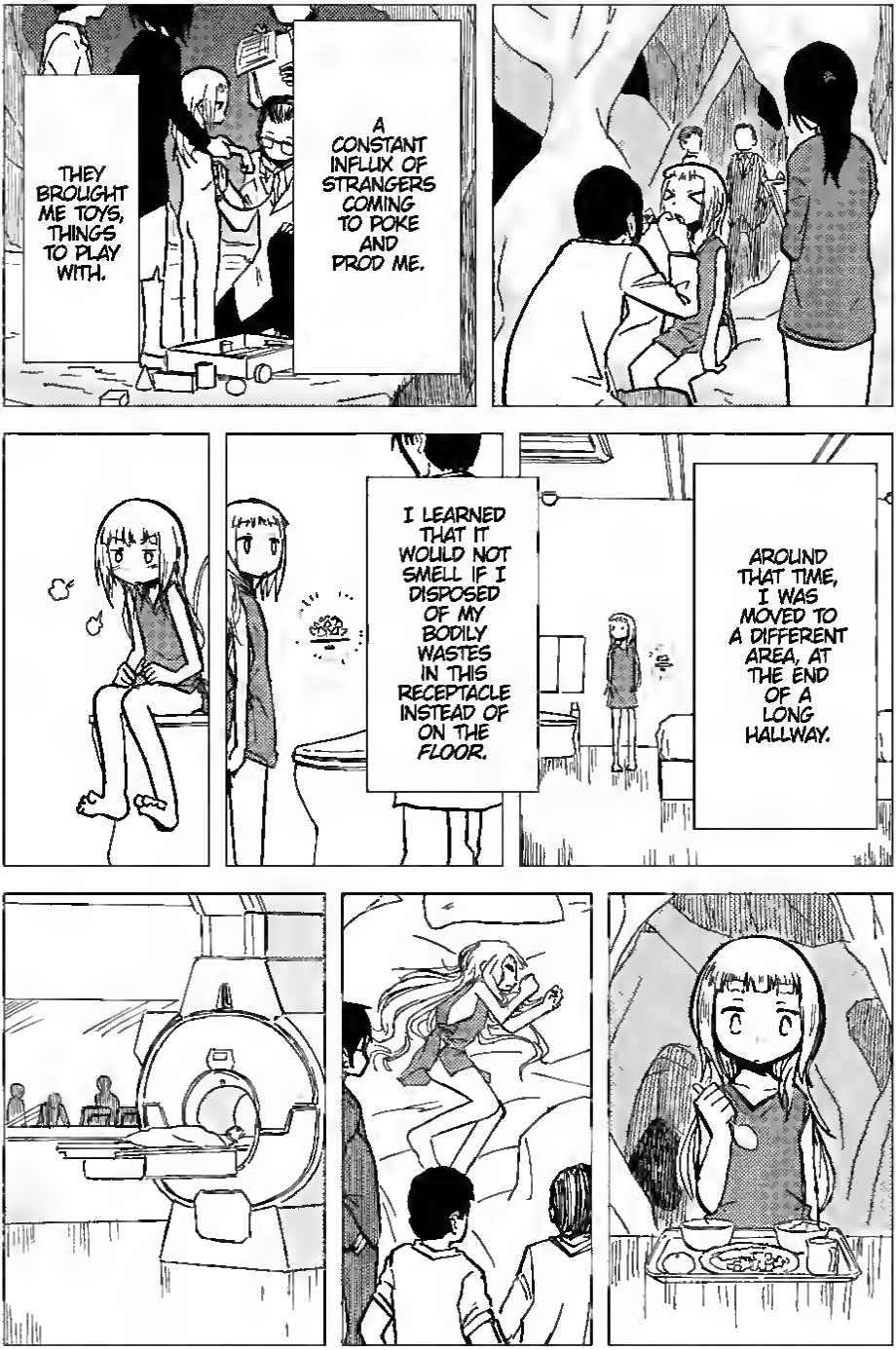


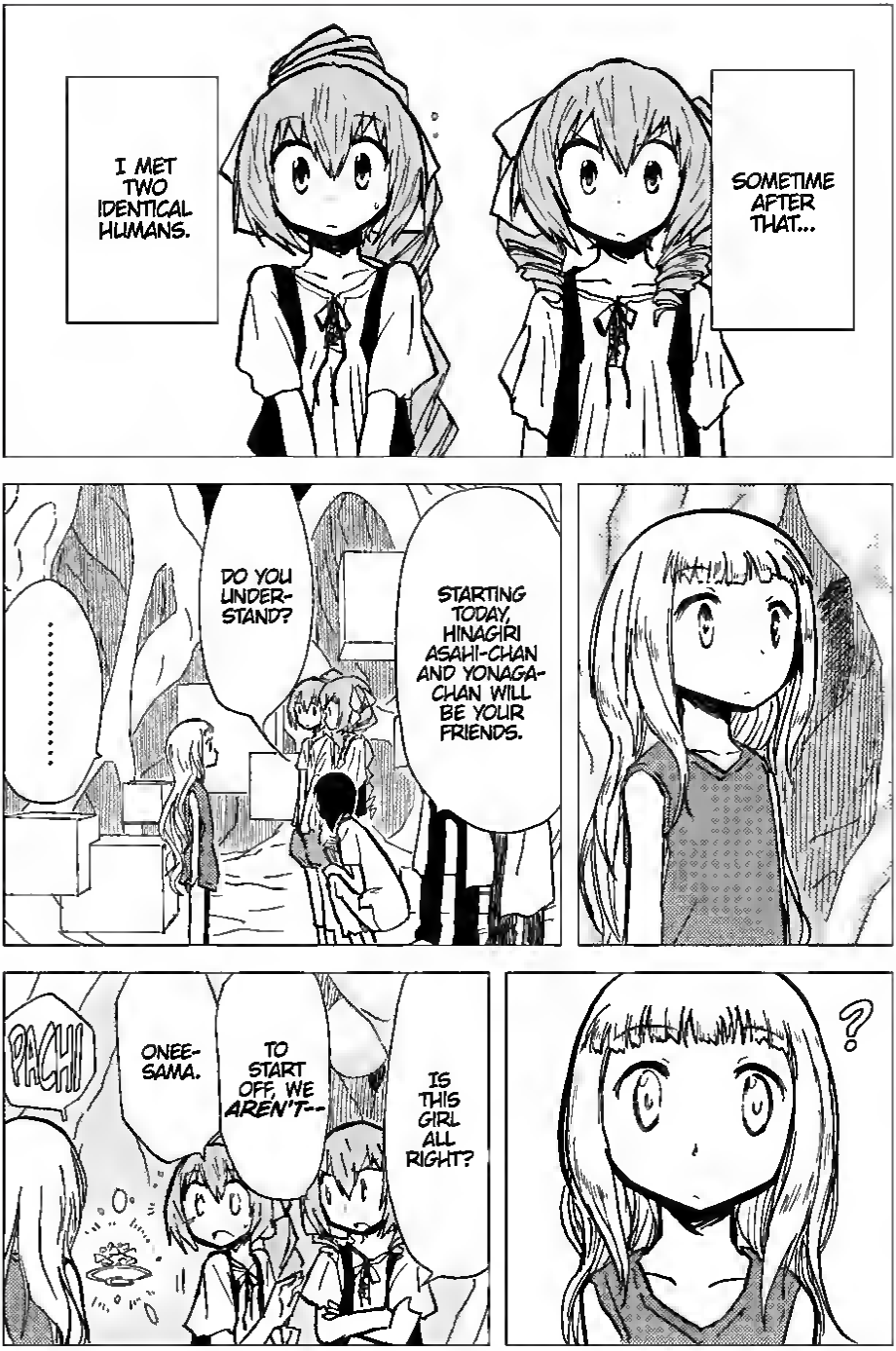

AT FIRST, WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A SENSE OF SELF.
OF COURSE, I WAS SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN...
BUT FOR A LONG TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS--OR IF I WAS ALWAYS THERE, OR IF I CAME FROM SOME *OTHER* PLACE. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES AT ALL.


THEN, AT A CERTAIN POINT...
I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT "I" EXISTED.
AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS ALL STILL VERY STRANGE, I SUDDENLY *UNDERSTOOD.*
FROM THE *MOMENT* I WAS BORN, I HAD BEEN USING ALICE'S DREAM.
I REALIZED THAT *ALL* THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE MY OWN CREATIONS.
UNTIL THEN, I DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN *MYSELF* AND THE WORLD.

ONLY AFTER THAT DID THINGS STARTED TO HAPPEN OUTSIDE OF MYSELF.
.....
DWAP
PLMP
THAT'S WHY THE WORLD CHANGED ITS SHAPE INTO WHATEVER I IMAGINED.
NYUU
PASHUU
BWIP
I SAW THE LOOKING-GLASS.

I HADN'T NOTICED IT BEFORE, BUT SOMEONE HAD LEFT FOOD FOR ME.
CLANK
THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER IS HUNGER.
FLOP FLOP
HUNG HUNG
PACHI
SNIFF SNIFF
IN TIME, OTHERS APPEARED, TOO.
A SHORT TIME LATER, PEOPLE CAME WITH MORE FOOD.


THEY BROUGHT ME TOYS, THINGS TO PLAY WITH.
A CONSTANT INFLUX OF STRANGERS COMING TO POKE AND PROD ME.
I LEARNED THAT IT WOULD NOT SMELL IF I DISPOSED OF MY BODILY WASTES IN THIS RECEPTACLE INSTEAD OF ON THE FLOOR.
AROUND THAT TIME, I WAS MOVED TO A DIFFERENT AREA, AT THE END OF A LONG HALLWAY.


I MET TWO IDENTICAL HUMANS.
SOMETIME AFTER THAT...
STARTING TODAY, HINAGIRI ASAHI-CHAN AND YONAGA-CHAN WILL BE YOUR FRIENDS.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
.....
?
IS THIS GIRL ALL RIGHT?
TO START OFF, WE AREN'T--
ONEE-SAMA.
PACHI

!!
WAIT...
SHE--
WHA...?
ONEE-SAMA, YOU MUSTN'T.
?
I HAD ONLY TO GAZE AT A PERSON TO BECOME ONE WITH THEIR SOUL.
THE LINE BETWEEN MY MIND AND THE WORLD AROUND ME WAS A BLURRY ONE.
THE BOUNDARIES OF MY NEWLY AWAKENED CONSCIOUSNESS WERE STILL UNCERTAIN, AND...
AT THE TIME, I STILL HAD NOT COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF SPEECH.

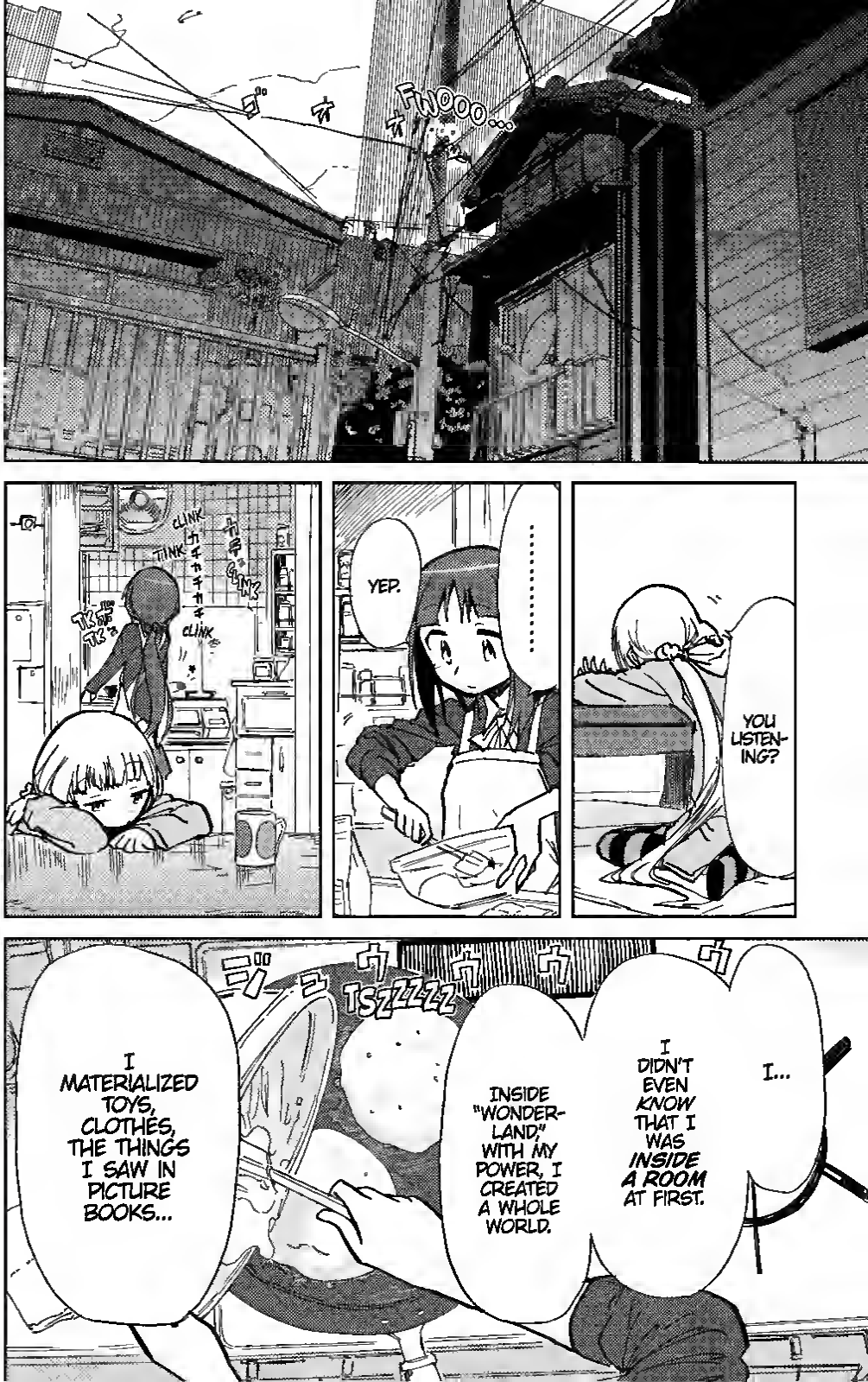
THEIRS WERE THE FIRST REAL WORDS THAT TOUCHED MY WORLD.
THEY WERE FULLY COGNIZANT OF MY ACCESS AND REJECTED IT.
HOWEVER, IT WAS SURPRISING THAT THESE TWO...
LET US DRAW A CLEAR LINE BETWEEN US.
PLEASE DO NOT COME INTO OUR SPACE.
WE SHALL NOT BECOME ONE WITH YOU.
NO...
MY NAME IS HINAGIRI YONAGA.
THIS IS HINAGIRI ASAHI, MY ELDER SISTER.
LET US SPEAK...
ALL AS DIFFERENT BEINGS.
WE SHALL NOT BECOME ONE.
LET US BE SEPA-RATE.

I DON'T KNOW.
.....
AND YOU ARE?
THEN WE WILL GIVE YOU A NAME.
WE HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT TOGETHER.
THE RED QUEEN FROM THE PICTURE BOOKS LOVED FISH, SO...
YOU ARE SANA.
SANA-CHAN.
.....
PA-KI!
SA-NA.
!

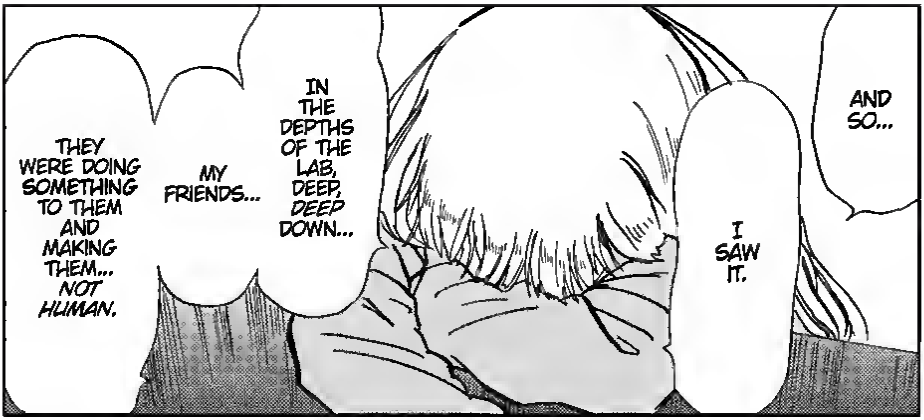
AND SO I BECAME SANA.

FROM THEN ON, WE PLAYED EVERY DAY IN THE WONDERLAND OF MY INVENTION.
BZZZ...
WHIIIIR
SPEECH, COUNTING, THE NAMES OF THINGS, ABOUT CLOTHES, SONGS, BOOKS, AND POEMS.
THE TWO OF THEM TAUGHT ME A GREAT MANY THINGS.
PACHI
BWOMP
BYOOP
BYOOOP
PACHI

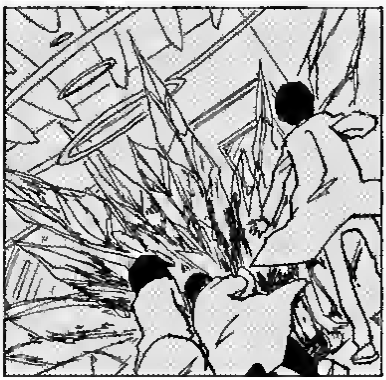
GWUN
!!!
FOR A WHILE, WE WERE ALL HAPPY.

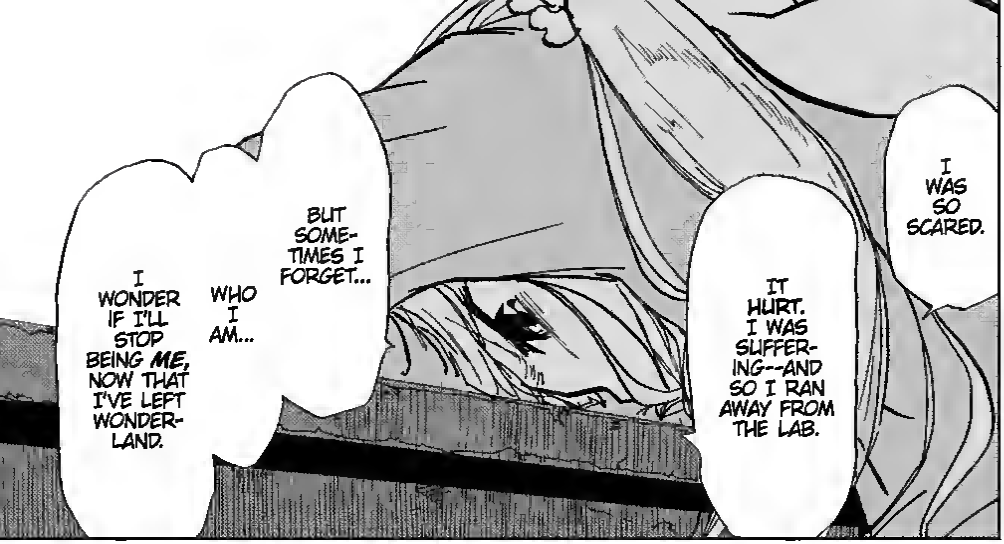

Fwooo...
CLINK
TINK
CLINK
YEP.
YOU LISTENING?
I...
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT I WAS INSIDE A ROOM AT FIRST.
INSIDE "WONDERLAND," WITH MY POWER, I CREATED A WHOLE WORLD.
I MATERIALIZED TOYS, CLOTHES, THE THINGS I SAW IN PICTURE BOOKS...

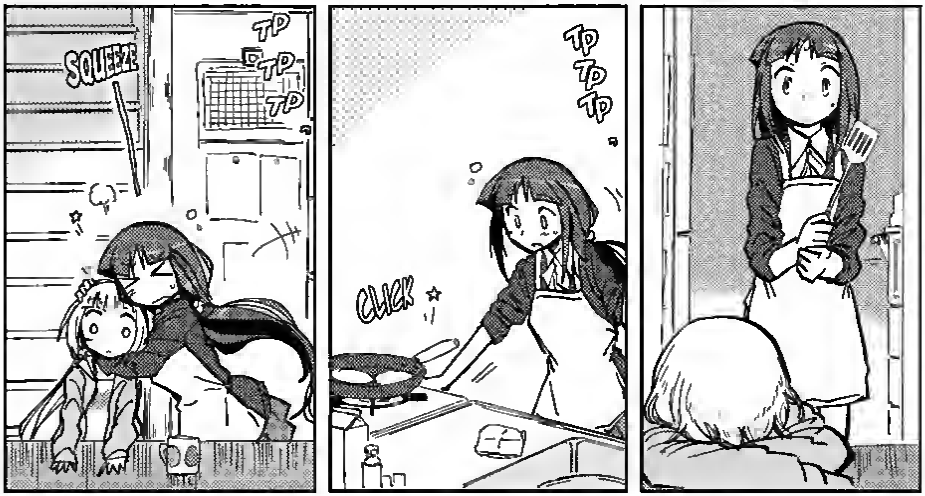
BUT, YOU KNOW, THEY WERE WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME, RESEARCHING ME.
WELL, THAT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER.
I HAD FRIENDS, AND IT WAS NICE...
BUT...
THAT WASN'T ALL OF IT.
THE LAB WAS DOING MORE TERRIFYING RESEARCH.
WHIRR
OINK
OINK
OINK
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS...
IT'S MY FAULT.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE MYSELF ENDED AND OTHERS BEGAN. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, MY SOUL WOULD CONNECT UNCONSCIOUSLY WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S AND...
I COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OTHER PERSON AND ME.

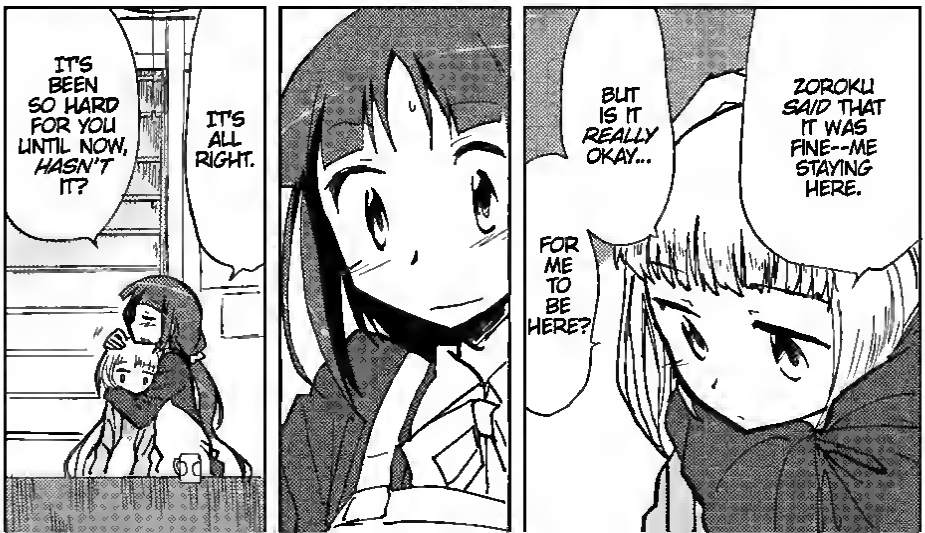

AND SO...
I SAW IT.
IN THE DEPTHS OF THE LAB, DEEP, DEEP DOWN...
MY FRIENDS...
THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING TO THEM AND MAKING THEM... NOT HUMAN.

SHHHNK

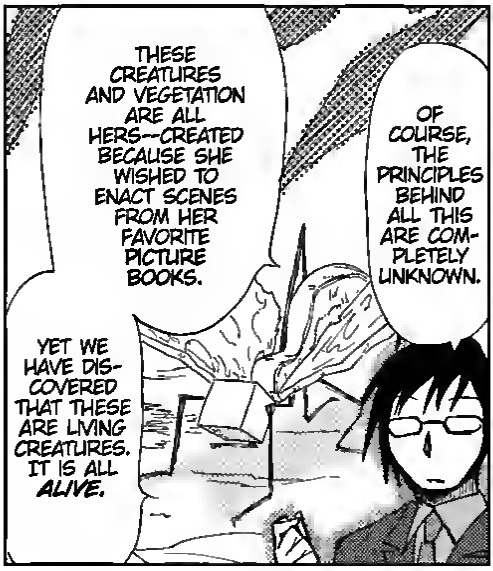


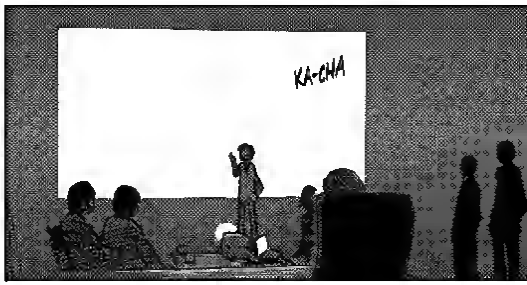

I WAS SO SCARED.
IT HURT. I WAS SUFFER-ING--AND SO I RAN AWAY FROM THE LAB.
BUT SOME-TIMES I FORGET... WHO I AM...
I WONDER IF I'LL STOP BEING ME, NOW THAT I'VE LEFT WONDER-LAND.

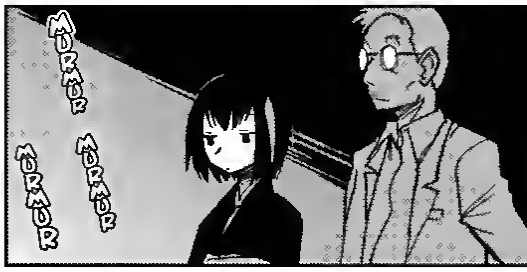

SQUEEZE
TD TD TD
TD TD TD
CLICK

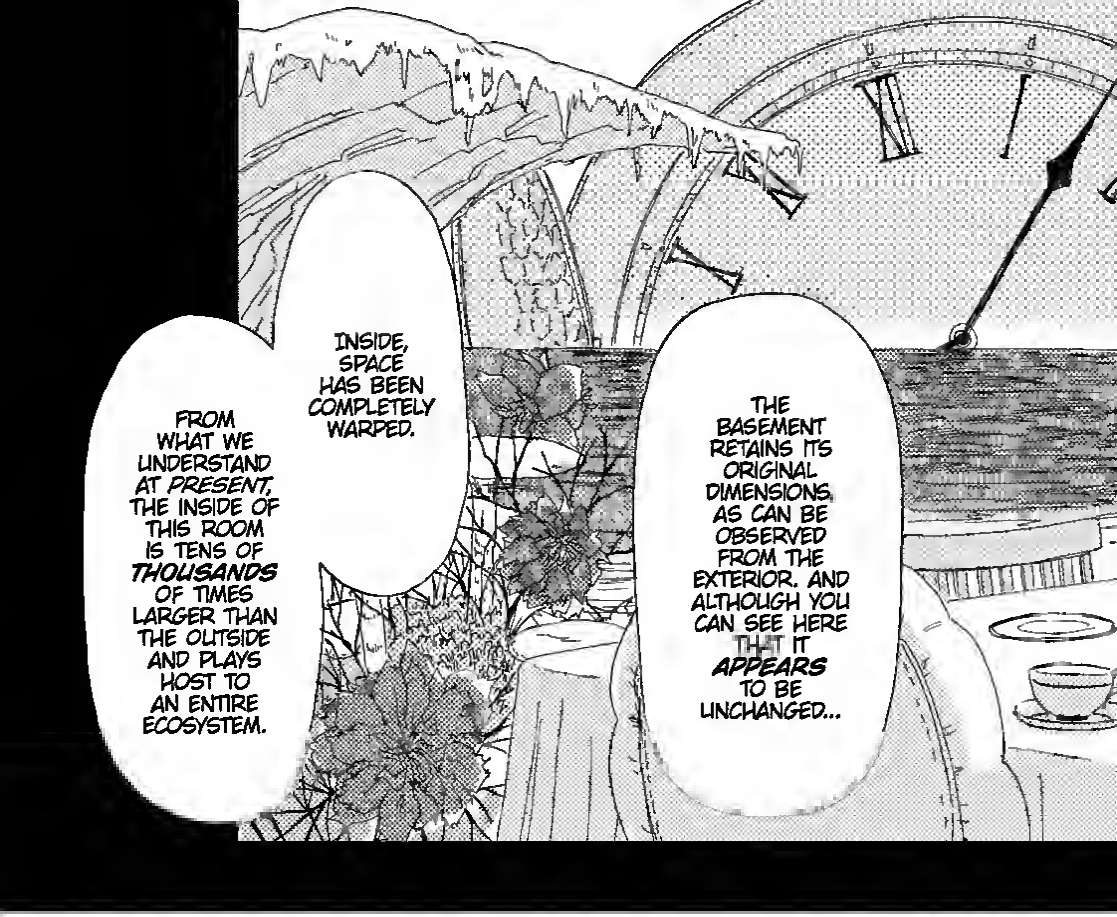

ZOROKU SAID THAT IT WAS FINE--ME STAYING HERE.
BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY... FOR ME TO BE HERE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU UNTIL NOW, HASN'T IT?

KA-CHA
"WONDER-LAND."
THE "RED QUEEN" IN THE LABORATORY'S BASEMENT HAS OVERWRITTEN REALITY AND CREATED THIS PLAYGROUND.


OF COURSE, THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND ALL THIS ARE COM-PLETELY UNKNOWN.
THESE CREATURES AND VEGETATION ARE ALL HERS--CREATED BECAUSE SHE WISHED TO ENACT SCENES FROM HER FAVORITE PICTURE BOOKS.
YET WE HAVE DIS-COVERED THAT THESE ARE LIVING CREATURES. IT IS ALL *ALIVE.*


KA-CHA

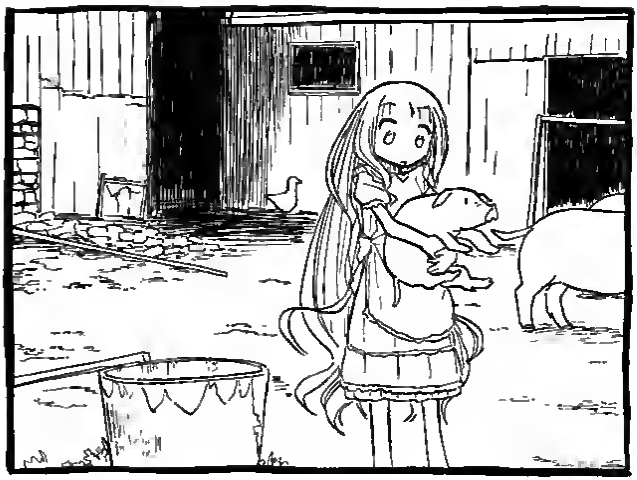

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR


FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND AT *PRESENT*, THE INSIDE OF THIS ROOM IS TENS OF ***THOUSANDS*** OF TIMES LARGER THAN THE OUTSIDE AND PLAYS HOST TO AN ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM.
INSIDE, SPACE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY WARPED.
THE BASEMENT RETAINS ITS ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS, AS CAN BE OBSERVED FROM THE EXTERIOR. AND ALTHOUGH YOU CAN SEE HERE THAT IT ***APPEARS*** TO BE UNCHANGED...

IN THE EVENT OF SUCH AN OCCURRENCE, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID THE LAB'S ACTIVITIES BECOMING PUBLIC--AT LEAST TO AN EXTENT. WE MUST ENSURE THIS DOES NOT OCCUR.
IT IS UNKNOWN JUST WHAT KIND OF CHAOS SHE COULD CAUSE IF SHE WERE TO, SAY, PRANCE AROUND THE OUTSIDE WORLD WITH THIS INCREDIBLE ABILITY.
KA-CHA
THE *FIRST* IS THAT SHE IS STILL A CHILD AND AS SUCH HER CONSCIOUSNESS IS QUITE UNSTABLE
NR
NR
NR...
KA-CHA
THERE ARE TWO ISSUES HERE AT HAND.

THE OTHER ISSUE, AND THIS IS THE MORE WEIGHTY ONE--
IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE IS CURRENTLY LOSING HER ABILITIES AT AN EXCEEDINGLY RAPID RATE.
COMPARED TO THE FIRST ISSUE, THIS SECOND IS SOMEWHAT MORE UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER.
FOR US-- AND INDEED, FOR THE COUNTRY--TO LOSE THE "RED QUEEN," A SAMPLE WITH AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE ABILITY, WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS LOSS.
I WOULD LIKE HER EXPEDIENT CAPTURE...
GRRRN
TO BE REGARDED AS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.
.....

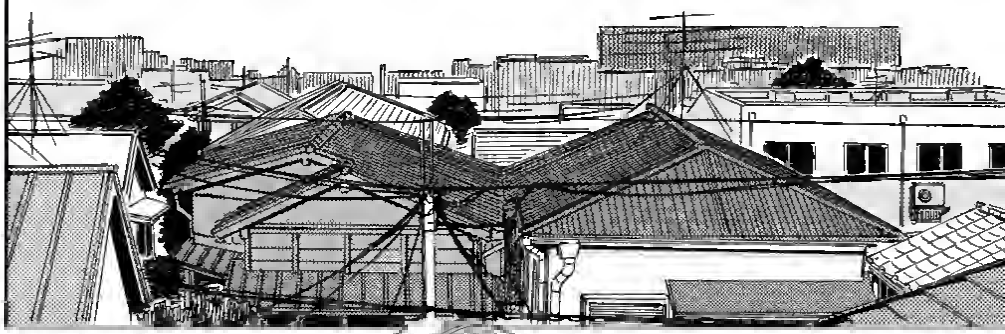
Alice & Zoroku



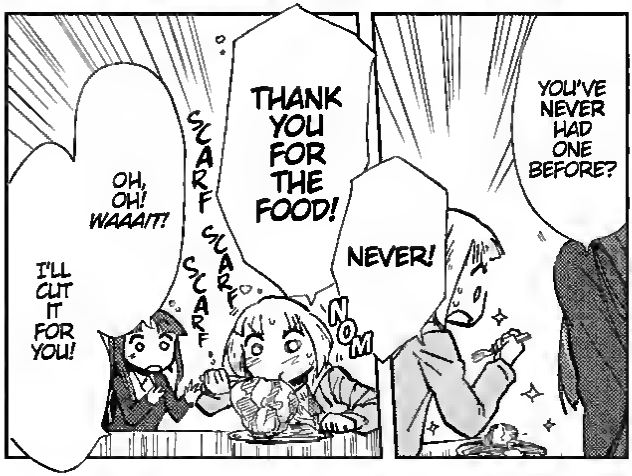
• ◆ •

"If it had grown up," she said to herself,
"it would have made a dreadfully ugly child;
but it makes rather a handsome pig,
I think."

Chapter.4
The Road Home



!!
THERE YOU GOOO! IT TOOK A BIT OF TIME, DIDN'T IT?
ENJOY YOUR SNAAACK!

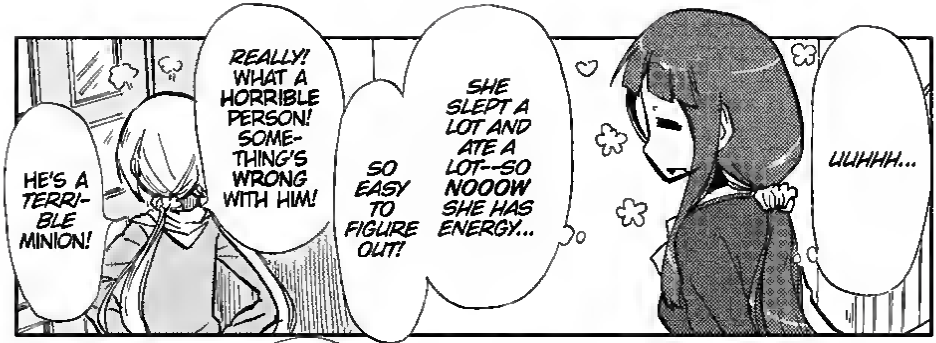

YOU'VE NEVER HAD ONE BEFORE?
NEVER!
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD!
NOM
SCARF SCARF SCARF
OH, OH! WAAAIT!
I'LL CUT IT FOR YOU!

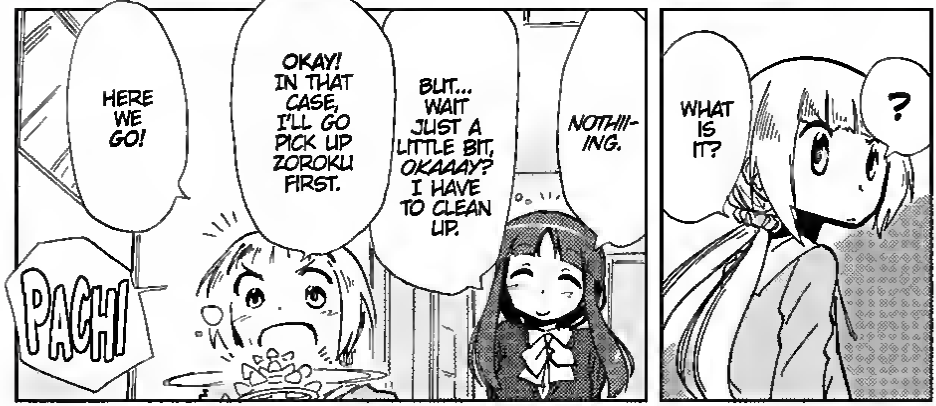
WH... WHAT IS...
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHAT? IT'S A PANCAKE, OF COURSE!

CLINK
AAH!
BEAM
GRR ROW WWWL
AMAAAZ-ING! YOUR TUMMY'S GROWLING WHILE YOU'RE EATING!
SHUDDER SHUDDER SHUDDER
MM
!!!
EMPTY

IT WAS YUMMY...
OHHH...
.....
LURCH
PACH!
HAVE YOU FINISHED EATING?
YEEES?
SANAE--
HEY! SANAE!
YES?
HEY, SANAE!
I'M GOING TO THE LAB RIGHT NOW!
WOBBLE

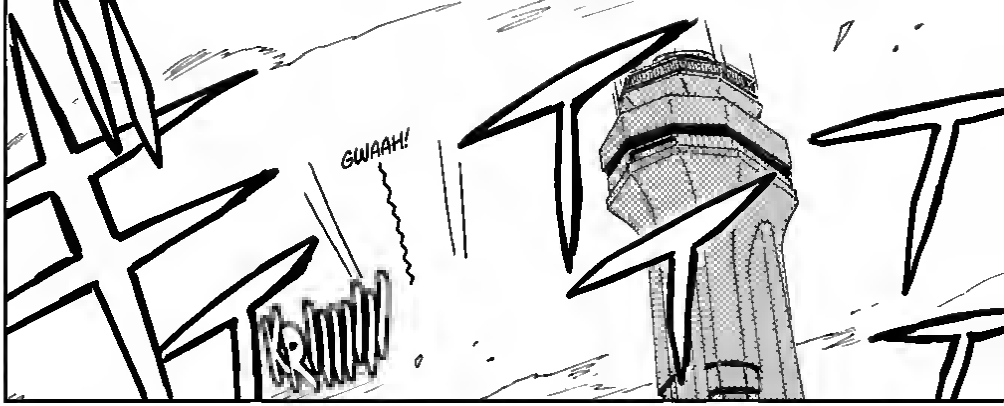
GRAND-PAAA?
I THINK HE'S AT WORK, BUUUUT...
WORK, HUH? THE FLOWER SHOP, THEN!
I KNOW ABOUT THAT! SAW IT YESTER-DAY!
HE SAID HE'D DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE LAB...
BUT HE'S JUST ABANDONED ME.
BUT, BUT--!
NO BUTS!
HMM...
OH YEAH! WHERE'S ZOROKU? WHAT KIND OF MINION IS HE, ANYWAY?!
YOU CAN, UM, YOU CAN MAKE A LOT OF SNACKS AND WAIT.
THIS TIME I'M GOING TO CRUSH THE WHOLE LAB TO PIECES!
THAT'S RIGHT! I ATE A WHOLE BUNCH OF YUMMY STUFF, SO I'M GOOD NOW!
NOOOW ...?
WHAAAT?

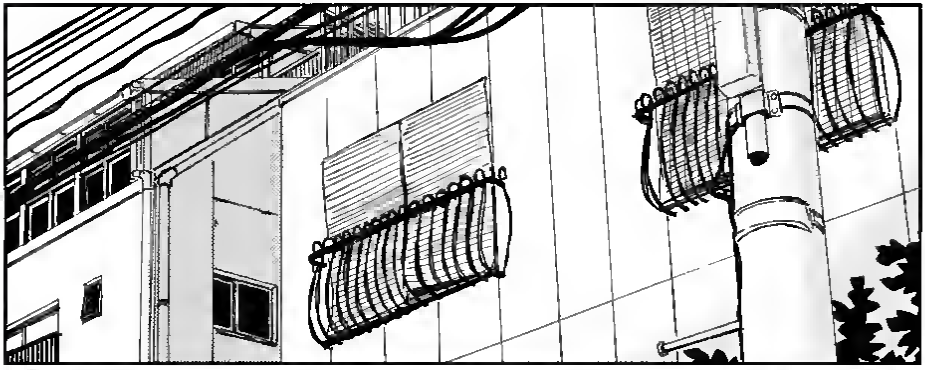

UUHHH...
SHE SLEPT A LOT AND ATE A LOT--SO NOOOW SHE HAS ENERGY...
SO EASY TO FIGURE OUT!
REALLY! WHAT A HORRIBLE PERSON! SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH HIM!
HE'S A TERRI-BLE MINION!


?
WHAT IS IT?
NOTHII-ING.
BUT... WAIT JUST A LITTLE BIT, OKAAAY? I HAVE TO CLEAN UP.
OKAY! IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO PICK UP ZOROKU FIRST.
HERE WE GO!
PACHI

GYUN
PYON
WHAT?!
?!!
FWROOOO

WHAT?
WHAT?
FLOAT
WHAT?!
NOOOOO!!!
OOOOSH
I'M FALLING!!! I'M FALLI-ING!!!
AAAAAH-HHHH!! WHAT IS THIS?!
GWOOAAAP
WHOOOO
WAIT!!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO!!
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PUR-POSE!!
I...
IT'S OKA-AAY!!
J-JUST...
SAVE ME!!
!!!
SAVE...!
KRORR
WHOMP
PACHI


GWAAH!



K
KASHIMURA FLORAL

KA-CHAK

THMP

PRUCK
PRUCK
PRUCK
SNAP
SNAP

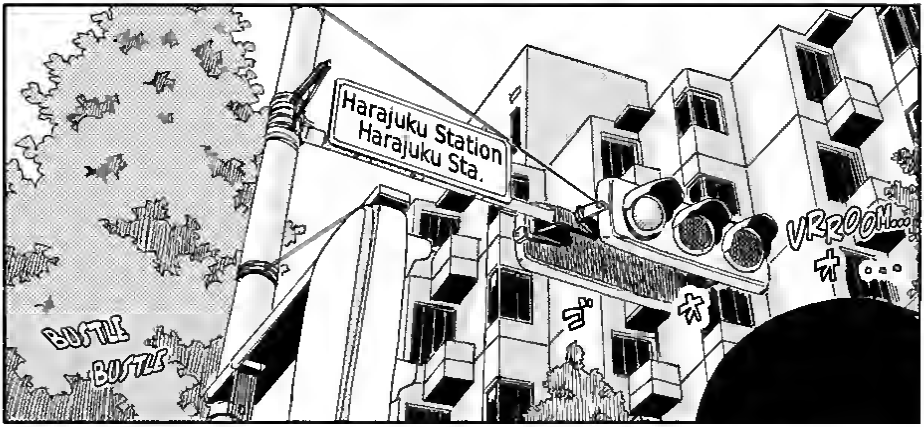
GRRRN
JEEZ, HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I WAS LAST IN HARAJUKU?
YOU'VE BEEN LOADS OF TIMES, HAVEN'T YOU? LIKE THAT TIME WE WERE ASSIGNED AS SECURITY TO THE MEIJI TEMPLE...
HUNH. IS THAT SO?
VRRROOOOM
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS IN OMOTESANDOU LAST MONTH.
WE REALLY GET AROUND, DON'T WE?
VRROO
WE REALLY DO.
WHY ARE YOU SO LAID BACK, NAITOU-SAN?
AND SUCH A MESSY EATER.

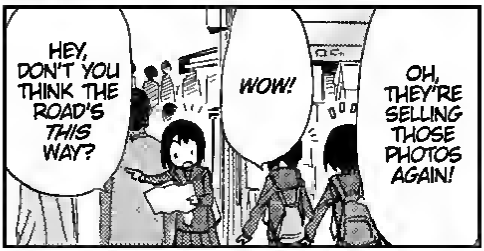
RRROO
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT--BUT PLEASE DON'T GET THE SEATS DIRTY AGAIN.
I'M WATCHING MY WAISTLINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M THE ONE THE CHIEF IS GOING TO COMPLAIN TO LATER, YOU KNOW.
VRR
RRR
IF WE'RE TALKING DIET, HOW ARE YOU DOING, ICHIJYOU-KUN?
WHO CARES? I'M HUNGRY.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS EATING JUNK FOOD.
.....
MMM, THIS IS SO GOOD! WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK TO THAT PLACE.
THAT'S WHY THE CHIEF IS GOING BALD, TOO, YOU KNOW.
UGH, DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING!
THIS IS AN OFFICIAL VEHICLE, YOU KNOW.
ARE YOU LISTENING?
I MEAN, I KNOW WHAT THE WORDS MEAN...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE EVEN TALKING ABOUT.
TAKENOKO ZOKU.
EXCUSE ME? WHAT WAS THAT?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TAKENOKO ZOKU?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, ICHIJYOU-KUN...

IT WAS THAT BIG COUNTER-CULTURE MOVEMENT IN HARAJUKU IN THE 80'S, RIGHT?
GAOOOOO
THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO GATHERED AND PERFORMED IN THE STREETS.
I KNEW YOU WERE BRIGHT!
I'VE ONLY READ ABOUT IT. IT WAS BEFORE I WAS BORN, SO...
BRRRROOOO
ICHIJYOU-KUN, HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
I'M TWENTY-SIX.
WHOA!
SERI-OUSLY? YOU'RE SO YOUNG. ENJOY IT.
WELL, YOU KNOW, BACK THEN I WAS STILL JUST STARTING OUT.
SO EVERY WEEKEND, THAT WAS MY BEAT-- TO GO OUT AND KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.
AND I JUST RE-MEMBERED THAT IT WAS BACK THEN THAT I FIRST MET THIS MAN.
THERE WAS A LOT GOING ON AT THESE PERFOR-MANCES...
AFTER ALL, ON GOOD DAYS THERE WERE CLOSE TO 100,000 PEOPLE OUT THERE.
AND ON THIS ONE DAY, SOME YOUNG PEOPLE AND AN OLD MAN WERE HAVING SOME KIND OF ALTERCA-TION...
SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING BAD MANNERS, OR MAYBE THEY WERE GETTING MADE FUN OF-- SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ANYWAY...
AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST BEING STUPID, YOU KNOW?
VRR
RRM
MMM

AND I HEAR HIM SAYING, "I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE DON'T DO THE RIGHT THING!"
I'VE KNOWN THAT MAN FOR ABOUT THIRTY YEARS NOW.
MN...
HE STUCK IN MY MEMORY BECAUSE HE HAD A REALLY BEAUTIFUL WIFE.
AT THE TIME, HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS OWN STORE YET, SO HE WENT ALL OVER, SELLING FLOWERS FROM HIS CAR.
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW HIM, BUT THAT OLD MAN HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.
.....
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER TALKED ABOUT A FRIEND FROM YOUR PRIVATE LIFE, NAITOU-SAN.
YOU MUST BE REALLY CLOSE.
NO.
NOT AT ALL.
HE'S GOT THIS SUPER RIGHTEOUS PERSONALITY, AND HE'S SO STUBBORN.
HE'S THE *EXACT* OPPOSITE OF ME, YOU KNOW?
AND HE'S A FLORIST... WITH *THAT* FACE! FUNNY, *ISN'T* IT?!
HE SHOULD JUST RETIRE AND *DIE* ALREADY, YOU KNOW?
.....
SIGH...

Exit 700m
G1 Meguro
Meguro
2 Shibuya
Shibuya
HEY, HEY! YOU'RE SPILLING STUFF! NAITOU-SAN!
SO YOU ARE CLOSE AFTER ALL, THEN?
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO SPIT OUT MY DRINK WHEN I SAW IT.
LOOK AT THIS! THIS IS HIS COMPANY'S WEBSITE!
VRRROOM


Harajuku Station
Harajuku Sta.
VRROOM...
BUSTLE
BUSTLE

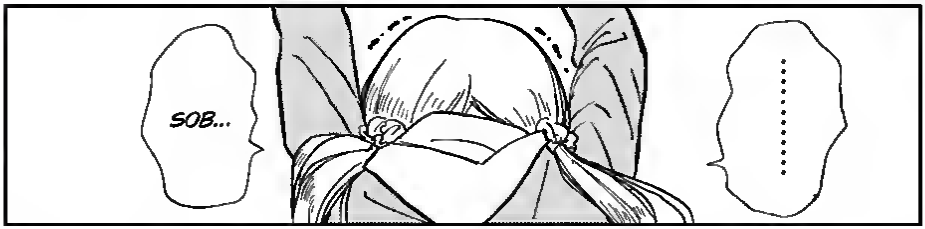

HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THE ROAD'S THIS WAY?
WOW!
OH, THEY'RE SELLING THOSE PHOTOS AGAIN!

2F
ALL ACCESSORIES ON SALE! JUST ONE-THOUSAND YEN!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE

.....
ぴょーン
PYON
HEY, ROKU-SAN, WE'RE HERE...
KNOCK KNOCK
!
THUNK

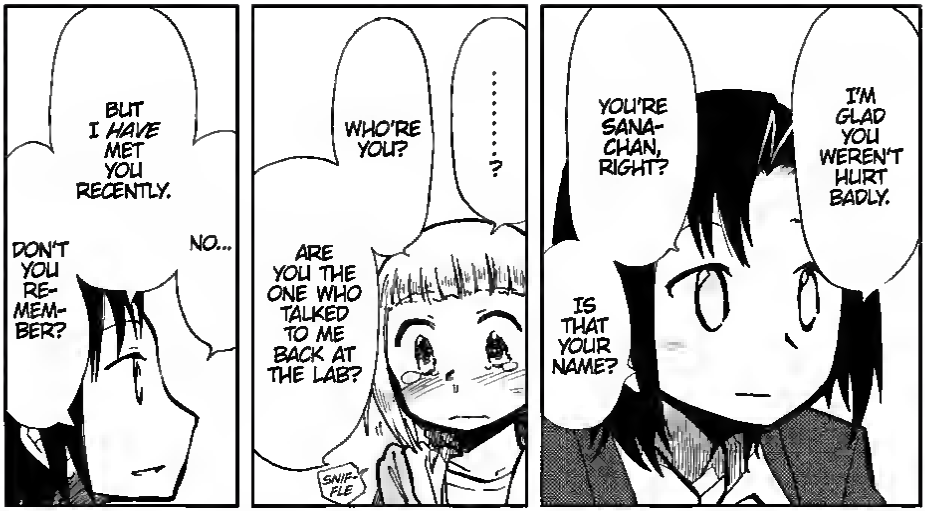
"FOR AN INSTANT, EVERY-THING WAS IN SLOW MOTION."
AS TOLD BY SANAE.
THUD
CRAAASH
TH-CLANG
GATRAKK
BRIISH
CLATTER
CRACK
KRIISH

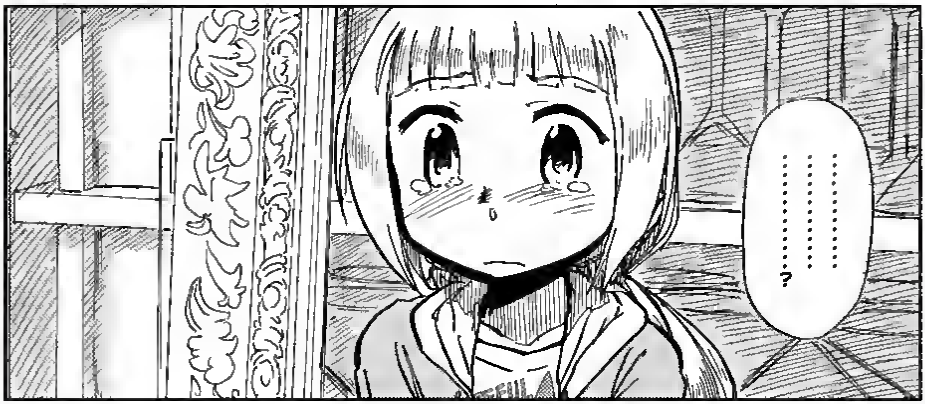
EEEK! SANA-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAAAAY?!
AH!! ARE YOU HURT?!
.....


SOB...
.....

WAA-AAA-AAH! WAA-AAA-AAH!
IT HUUU-UURTS! WAAA-AAAAH!
WHAT? WHAT?
WHAAAT?!
HEY! WHAT'S ALL THIS?!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, NAITOU-SAN.
THIS IS OUR DUTY.
I'M GOING HOME! I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!
OKAY...
WAA AAA AAA AH!
TUC
MURR...
HERE YOU GO.
ARE YOU CALMER NOW?
SNIFF
MORE.
SSSP
TH-THIS IS YUMMY...
SSS SSS SSS SP SP SP SP SSP
SLRRP
SLRRP

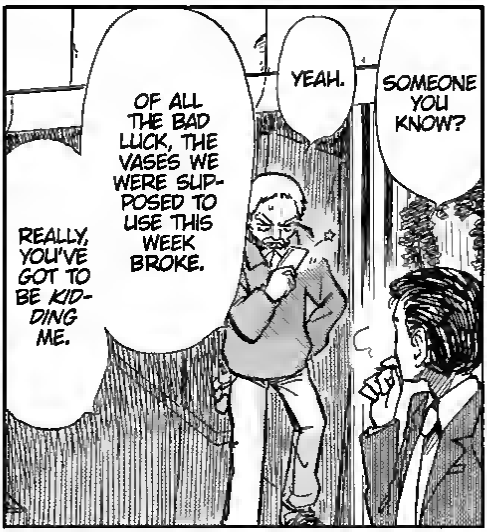

I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT BADLY.
YOU'RE SANA-CHAN, RIGHT?
IS THAT YOUR NAME?
.....?
WHO'RE YOU?
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO TALKED TO ME BACK AT THE LAB?
SNIF-FLE
NO...
BUT I HAVE MET YOU RECENTLY.
DON'T YOU RE-MEM-BER?

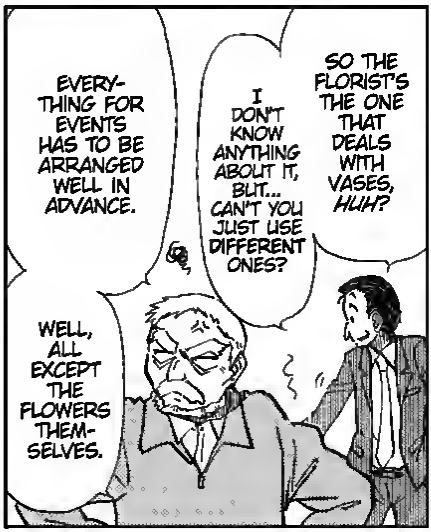

.....?

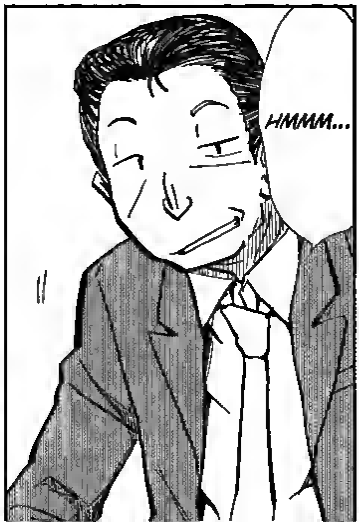
IF WE DO THAT, THEN IT'LL BE NINE OF THEM.
YEAH, YEAH, YEP. THAT ALL RIGHT?
REALLY-- THAT'S BE A BIG HELP. SORRY ABOUT THIS.

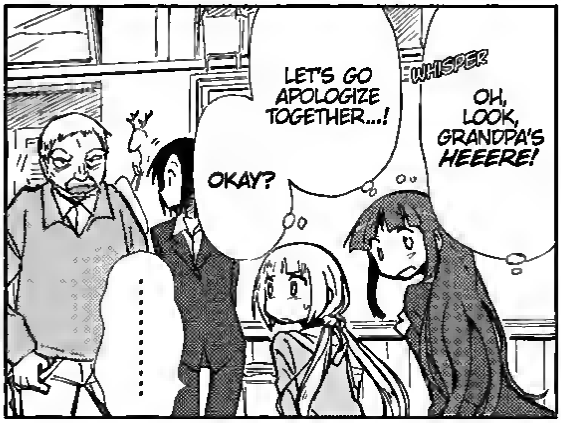
REALLY? THAT'D HELP A LOT.
YEAH, AND--
YOU HAVE THOSE LONG CYLINDER ONES THAT WE ALWAYS USE?
YEAH, THOSE. THOSE ARE THE ONES.

YEAH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IS TOMORROW AFTERNOON OKAY WITH YOU? I'LL COME GET THEM.
NO, NO, I DON'T MIND. IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW.
YES, I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN. THANKS.
YEAH.
.....

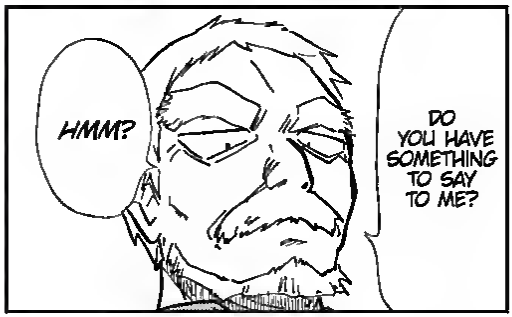

SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
YEAH.
OF ALL THE BAD LUCK, THE VASES WE WERE SUPPOSED TO USE THIS WEEK BROKE.
REALLY, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.

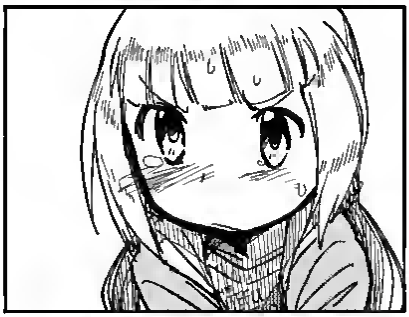

SO THE FLORIST'S THE ONE THAT DEALS WITH VASES, HUH?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT... CAN'T YOU JUST USE DIFFERENT ONES?
EVERYTHING FOR EVENTS HAS TO BE ARRANGED WELL IN ADVANCE.
WELL, ALL EXCEPT THE FLOWERS THEMSELVES.


HMMM...


WHISPER
OH, LOOK, GRANDPA'S HEEERE!
LET'S GO APOLOGIZE TOGETHER...!
OKAY?
.....

……
ゴGWO
ゴGWO ゴGWO GWO
ゴGWO
ゴGWO
ゴGWO
ゴGWO


HMM?
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?



IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE.
IT...
……

EEP!
GRAB
I DIDN'T ASK IF IT WAS ON PURPOSE.
OUCH!
OW, OW, OW!
YOU NEED TO LEARN TO SAY "SORRY"! START WITH THAT!
AH! AH! WAAAH!
U-UMMM, YOU KNOOOW, GRAND-PAAA...!
SANA-CHAN REALLY DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!
I KNOW THAT...
BUT WHETHER SHE MEANT TO OR NOT, SHE DID IT ALL THE SAME.
WE'VE BEEN MEETING WITH OUR CLIENTS FOR MONTHS NOW TO TALK OVER WHAT VASES AND FLOWERS WE NEEDED TO GET READY.
LUCKILY, WE WERE ABLE TO BORROW THE SAME VASES, BUT IT'S CAUSED A LOT OF PEOPLE A LOT OF UNNECESSARY WORK.

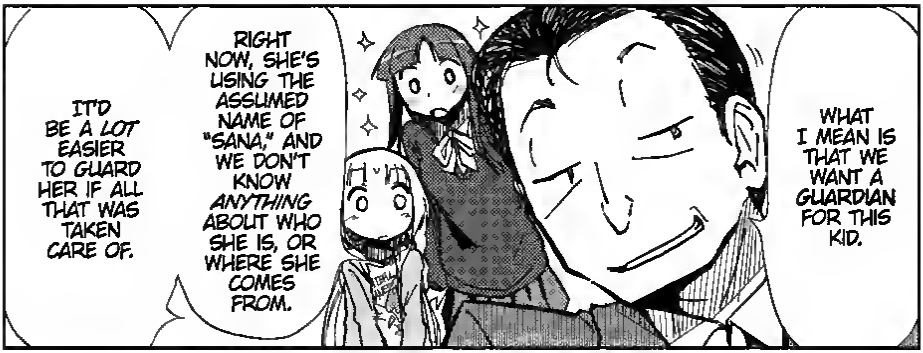
FIRST OF ALL, DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO USE THAT POWER ANYMORE, MISSY?
AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THESE PIGS AND SUCH?
ONE MISSTEP, AND SOMEONE COULD'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT. SORRY WOULDN'T HAVE CUT IT, YOU KNOW?
NGH...!
B...
BUT--!
HMM?
CAN YOU EVEN KEEP YOUR PROMISE?
BUT IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!
I WAS GOING TO THE L-LAB FOR MY--
ENOUGH!
STOP CRYING!!!
NOW, NOW!
NOW, NOW, NOW!
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE IT AT THAT, OLD MAN? OKAY?
HUH?!
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? DON'T GIVE THE KID SUCH A HARD TIME.

LITTLE GIRL...
I'M NAITOU RYUU...
AND, WELL, I'M AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THIS SCARY OLD MAN.
YOU KNOW ABOUT RYUU? MEANS "DRAGON"! COOL, HUH?
SNIFF.
SOB.
?
SNIFFLE
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL, BUT...MY JOB IS TO CHASE AFTER BAD GUYS, LIKE THE ONES WHO KEPT YOU LOCKED UP.
AND SO, WHEN THIS OLD MAN CONTACTED ME, I CAME RIGHT OVER.
UNLIKE HIM, I'M ON YOUR SIDE. HEH HEH HEH.
I'M ONE OF THOSE DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE, YOU KNOW? LIKE 007!
COOL!
HEY! I'M NOT DONE TALKING---!
NOW, NOW, NOW...

THOSE LAB PEOPLE YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, SANA-CHAN...
WELL, THIS IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET, TOO...
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN DOING SOME OTHER BAD THINGS, IN ADDITION TO KEEPING YOU LOCKED UP.
TH...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY...
SNIFFLE...
YEAH.
WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THAT LATER.
BUT IT'S A SECRET, OKAY? IF IT GETS OUT, THE BAD GUYS MIGHT GET AWAY.
SANAE-CHAN, CAN YOU KEEP EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TODAY A SECRET, TOO?
!
Y-YESSS!

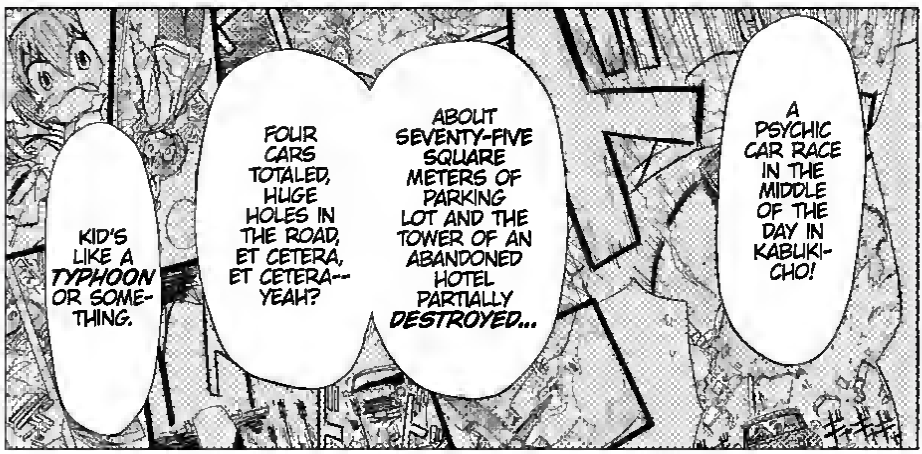
YOU'RE SO BIG NOW, SANAÉ-CHAN!
!
WHEN I LAST SAW YOU, YOU WERE STILL JUST THIS TALL.
YOU RE-MEMBER?
YES.
IT'S BEEN A WHIIIILE.
HEH HEH HEH. WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
ANY WAY.
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER JOB TOO, YOU KNOW.
AND THAT IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE.
THOSE PEOPLE AT THE LAB ARE BAD GUYS.
PLUS, THE PEOPLE BACKING THEM ARE EVEN WORSE-- REALLY BAD GUYS.
WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL TRY TO ABDUCT YOU AGAIN-- OR DO SOMETHING EVEN WORSE.
IT'S REALLY A PROB-LEM.
AND SO...

SANA-CHAN.
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN...
BUT DO YOU WANT TO KEEP STAYING AT ZOROKU-SAN'S LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN?
EXCUSE ME?
WH--
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
WELL, WELL, WELL. I GUESS WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
YOU'RE BUSY WITH STUFF, AREN'T YOU? LIKE THE WHAT-- VASES OR SOME-THING?
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!!


WHAT I MEAN IS THAT WE WANT A GUARDIAN FOR THIS KID.
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S USING THE ASSUMED NAME OF "SANA," AND WE DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT WHO SHE IS, OR WHERE SHE COMES FROM.
IT'D BE A *LOT* EASIER TO GUARD HER IF ALL THAT WAS TAKEN CARE OF.

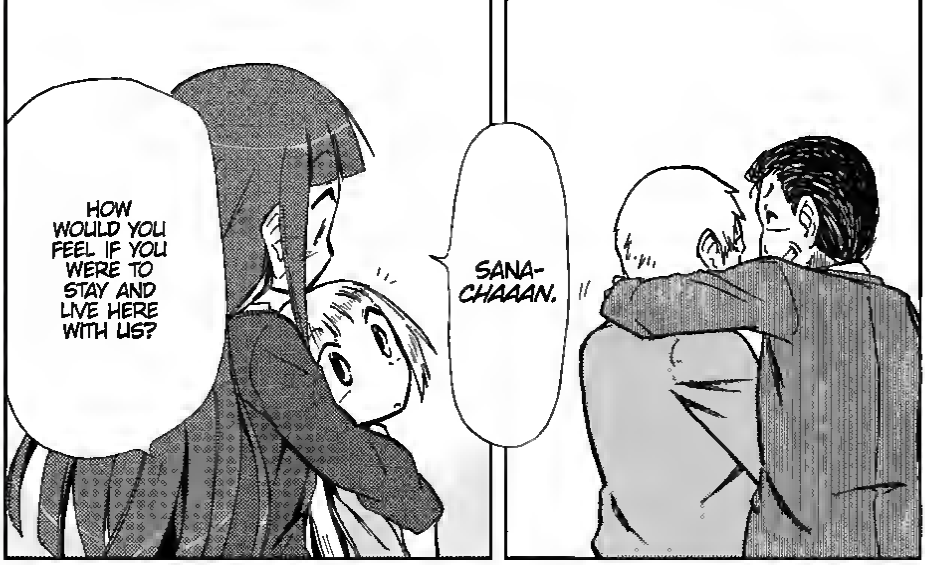
THAT'S *NOT* THE ISSUE...
YOU FEEL BAD FOR SANA-CHAN, RIGHT?
AND I KNOW. YOU HAD A HARD DAY YESTERDAY.

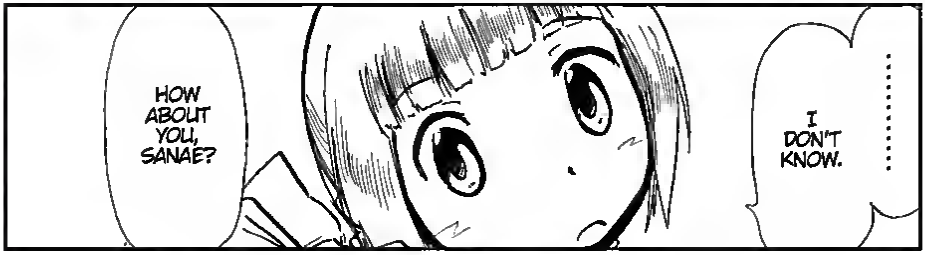
SO WHY US?
THE DEAL WAS THAT YOU'D TAKE HER SOMEWHERE SAFE, *RIGHT?*
HEY, HEY, DON'T BE SO COLD!
THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

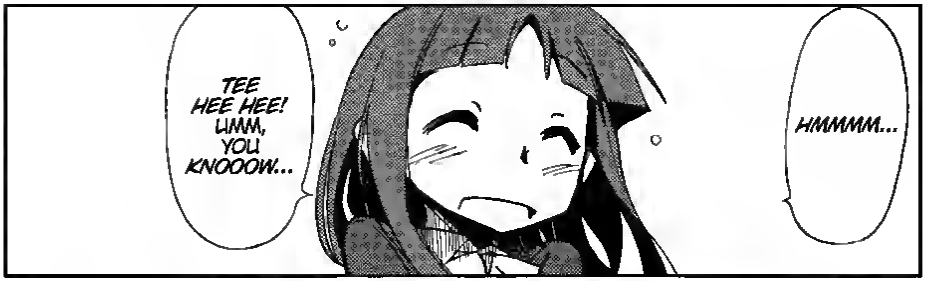

A PSYCHIC CAR RACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY IN KABUKI-CHO!
ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE SQUARE METERS OF PARKING LOT AND THE TOWER OF AN ABANDONED HOTEL PARTIALLY ***DESTROYED...***
FOUR CARS TOTALED, HUGE HOLES IN THE ROAD, ET CETERA, ET CETERA--YEAH?
KID'S LIKE A ***TYPHOON*** OR SOMETHING.

YEAH, OF COURSE SANA-CHAN'S NOT AT FAULT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
HEY!!
WHO *ELSE* CAN WE ENTRUST THIS KID TO BESIDES YOU, OLD MAN?
WELL, LET'S THINK OF IT *THIS* WAY, OKAY?
THIS KID KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THAT KIND OF EVERYDAY HAPPINESS, *YOU KNOW?*
SHE NEEDS TO BE IN A WARM FAMILY, EAT DINNER, FEEL LOVED, AND BE ABLE TO SLEEP WITHOUT BEING AFRAID.
OLD MAN, WHAT THIS KID NEEDS IS *COM-PANION-SHIP.*
JUST WHAT I EXPECTED FROM YOU, OLD MAN! YOU KNOW ME WELL.
HA HA!
WHEN YOU START SPOUTING DO-GOODER NONSENSE, IT USUALLY MEANS YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY STUFF LIKE THIS.
COME ON, BE LEVEL WITH ME.

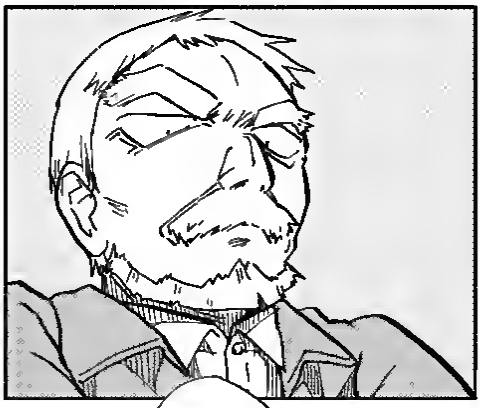
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY, OLD MAN.
NO MATTER *WHAT* YOU DO, TROUBLE'S GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR THAT KID.
AT WHICH POINT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE HER SAFETY, *RIGHT?*
THAT AND SANAE-CHAN'S, TOO...
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S NO GOOD.
I WANT YOU TO GIVE HER A TASTE OF A NORMAL LIFE, EVEN FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGERS SHE BRINGS.
BUT *WHY...?*
.....
HEH HEH HEH.
WELL, *ANY-WAY...*
YOU KIND OF *WANTED* TO, RIGHT, OLD MAN?
IF THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYONE TO TAKE HER IN...
AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY YOU ARE. I KNOW THAT.
HEH HEH HEH.
.....

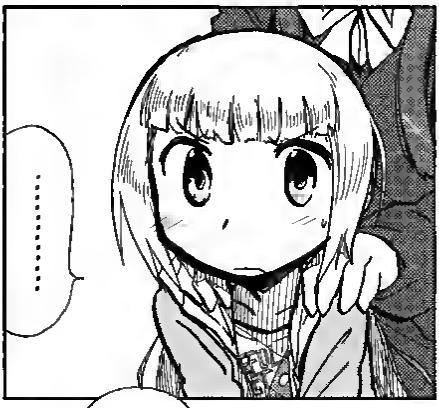

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE TO STAY AND LIVE HERE WITH US?
SANA-CHAAAN.

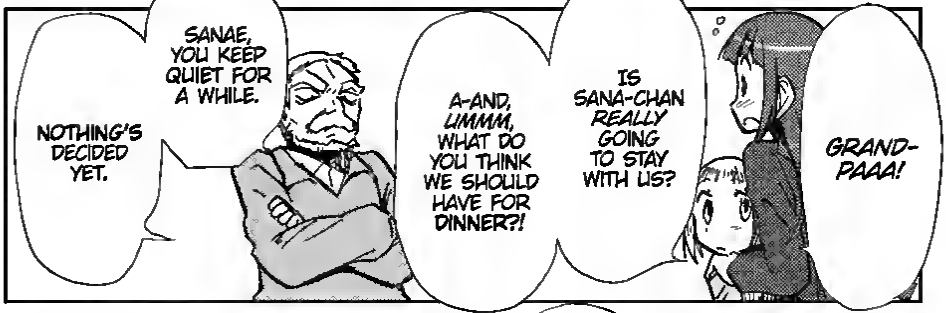

HOW ABOUT YOU, SANAE?
I DON'T KNOW.

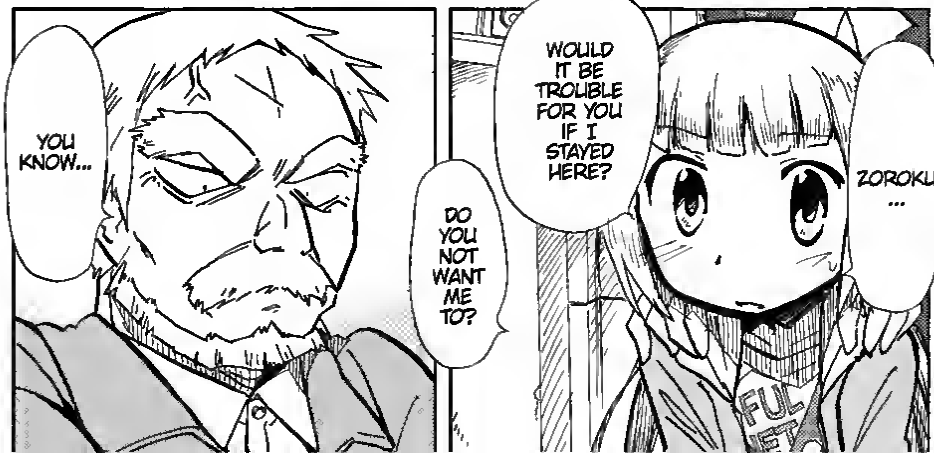

TEE HEE HEE! UMM, YOU KNOOOW...
HMMMM...

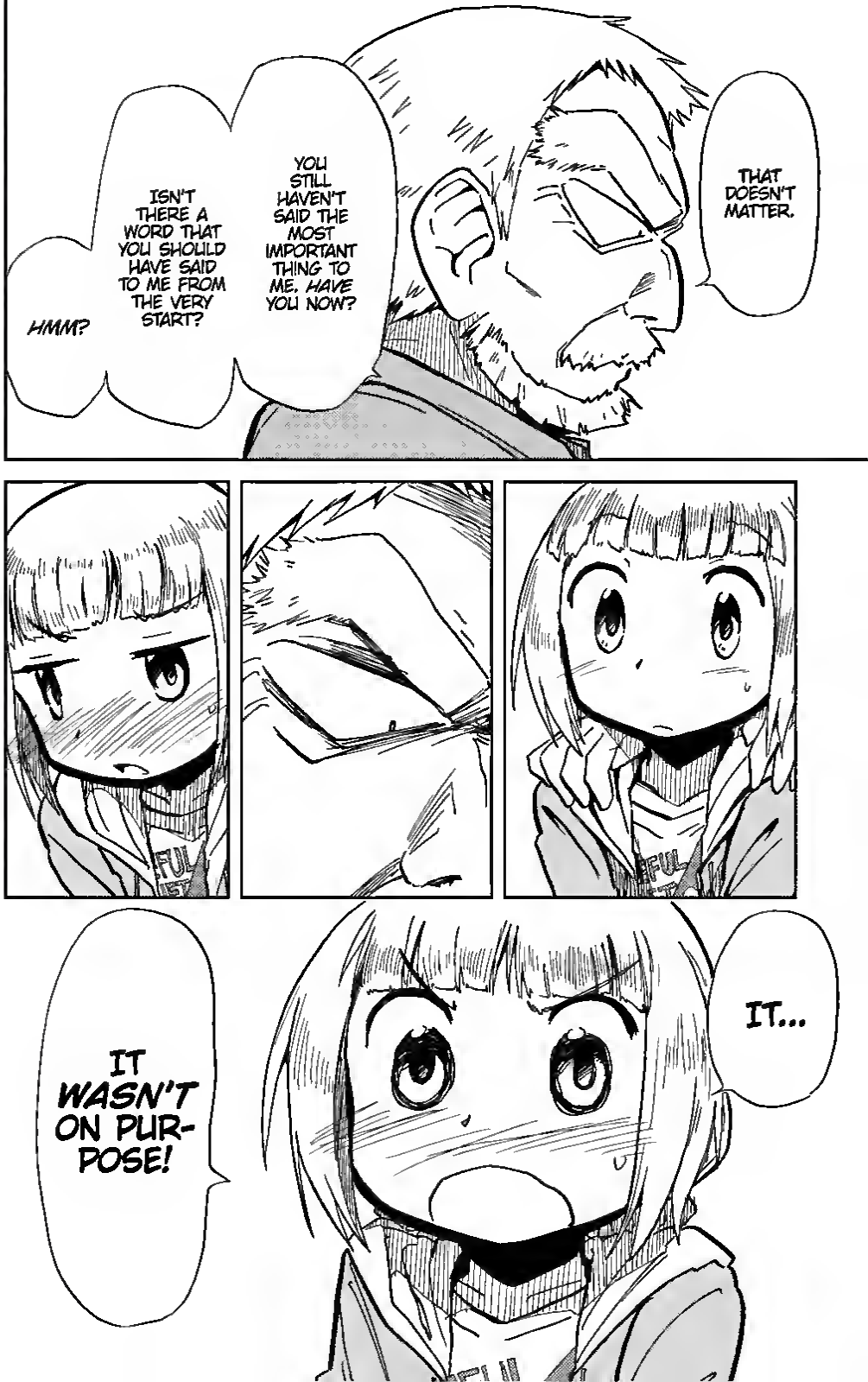
THE TRUTH IS, IT WAAAS A LITTLE FUN, KIND OF LIKE AN ADVEN-TURE.
EVEN WHEN YOU AND I WERE HOPPING TALL AROUND EARLIER...
SANAE-CHAN MIGHT BE A LITTLE HAPPY!





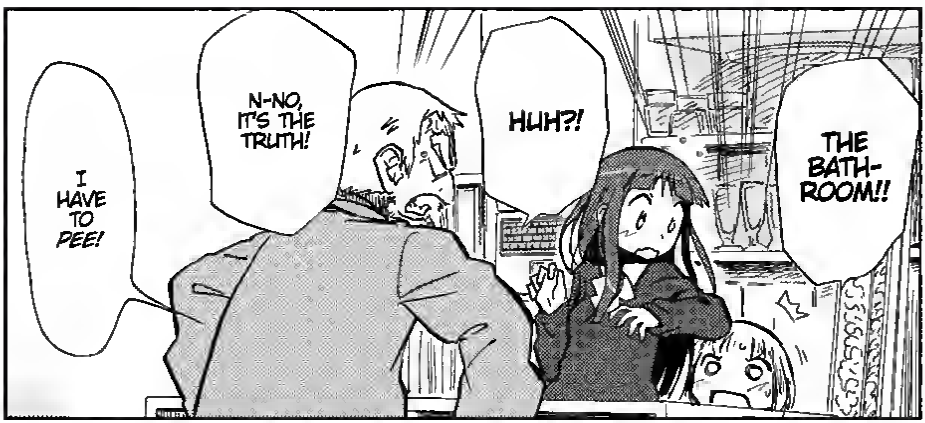

SANAE, YOU KEEP QUIET FOR A WHILE.
NOTHING'S DECIDED YET.
A-AND, UMMM, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD HAVE FOR DINNER?!
IS SANA-CHAN REALLY GOING TO STAY WITH US?
GRAND-PAAA!

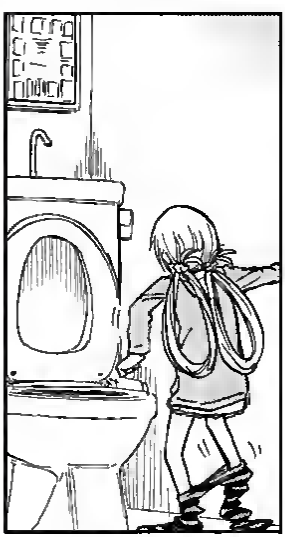

YOU KNOW...
DO YOU NOT WANT ME TO?
WOULD IT BE TROUBLE FOR YOU IF I STAYED HERE?
ZOROKU...

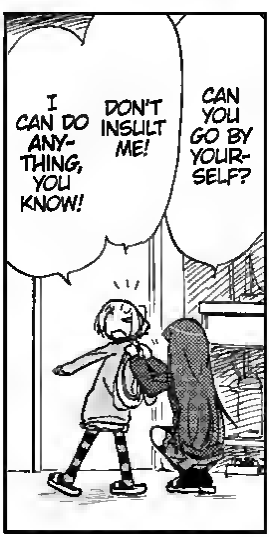

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME. HAVE YOU NOW?
ISN'T THERE A WORD THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID TO ME FROM THE VERY START?
HMM?
IT...
IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!

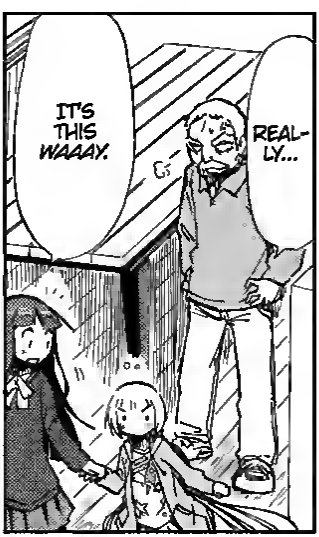
SLAM!
EEK!
DUCK!
WHY ARE YOU STILL SAYING THAT?!!
B-BE-CAUSE!
IT REALLY WASN'T ON PUR-POSE! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
R-REAL-LYYY!
BOOOTH OF YOU!
OKAY. FINE. I SEE!
I WON'T TRUST YOU AT ALL. I WON'T LET YOU IN THE HOUSE.
GOT IT?!
HEE HEE HEE!
AH HA HA HA!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?!
GYAA!
GYAA!
RIGHT?
JUS-JUST A MINUTE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

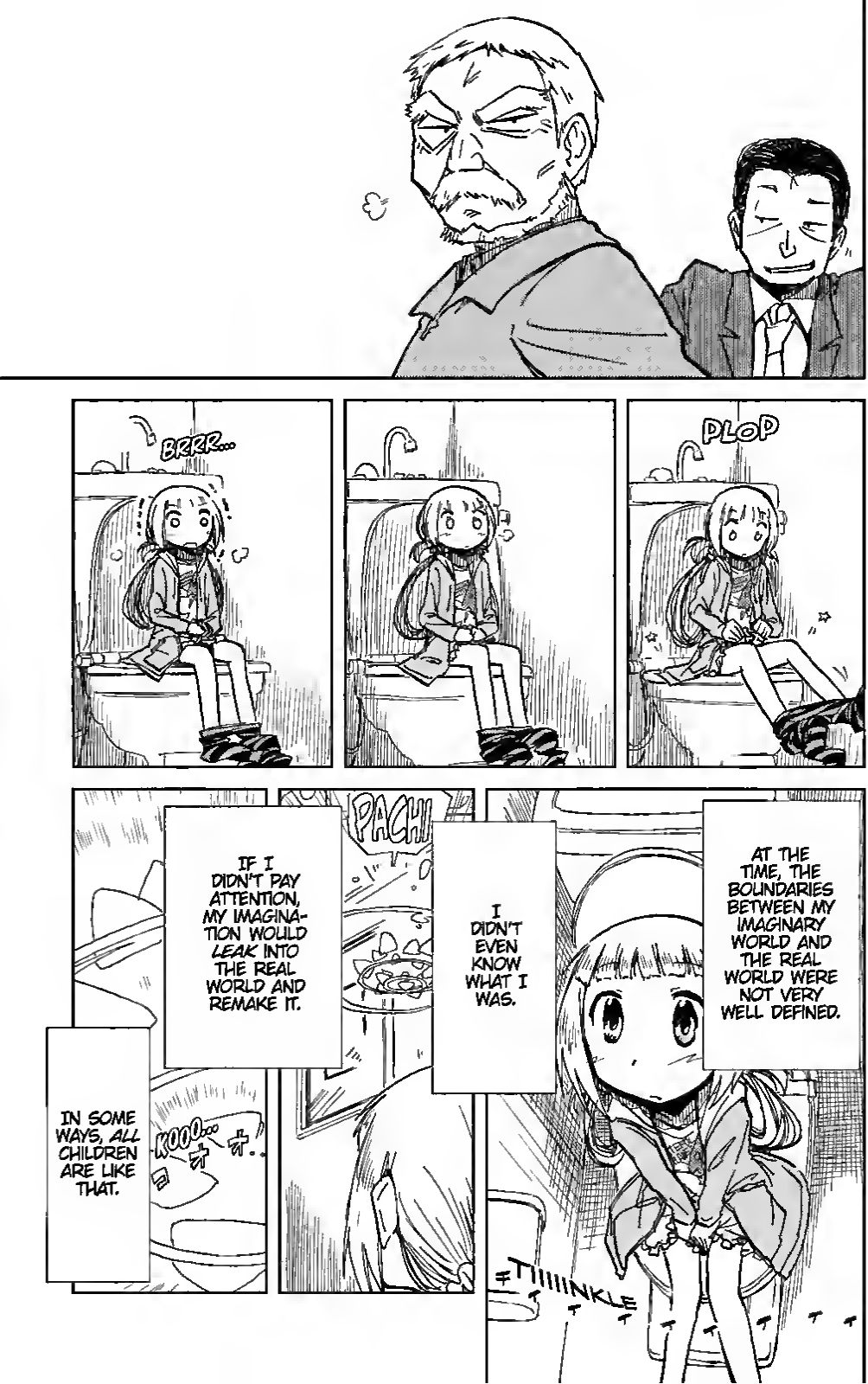
THIS IS A STORY FROM WHEN I COULD STILL GO FREELY TO THE LAND OF DREAMS.

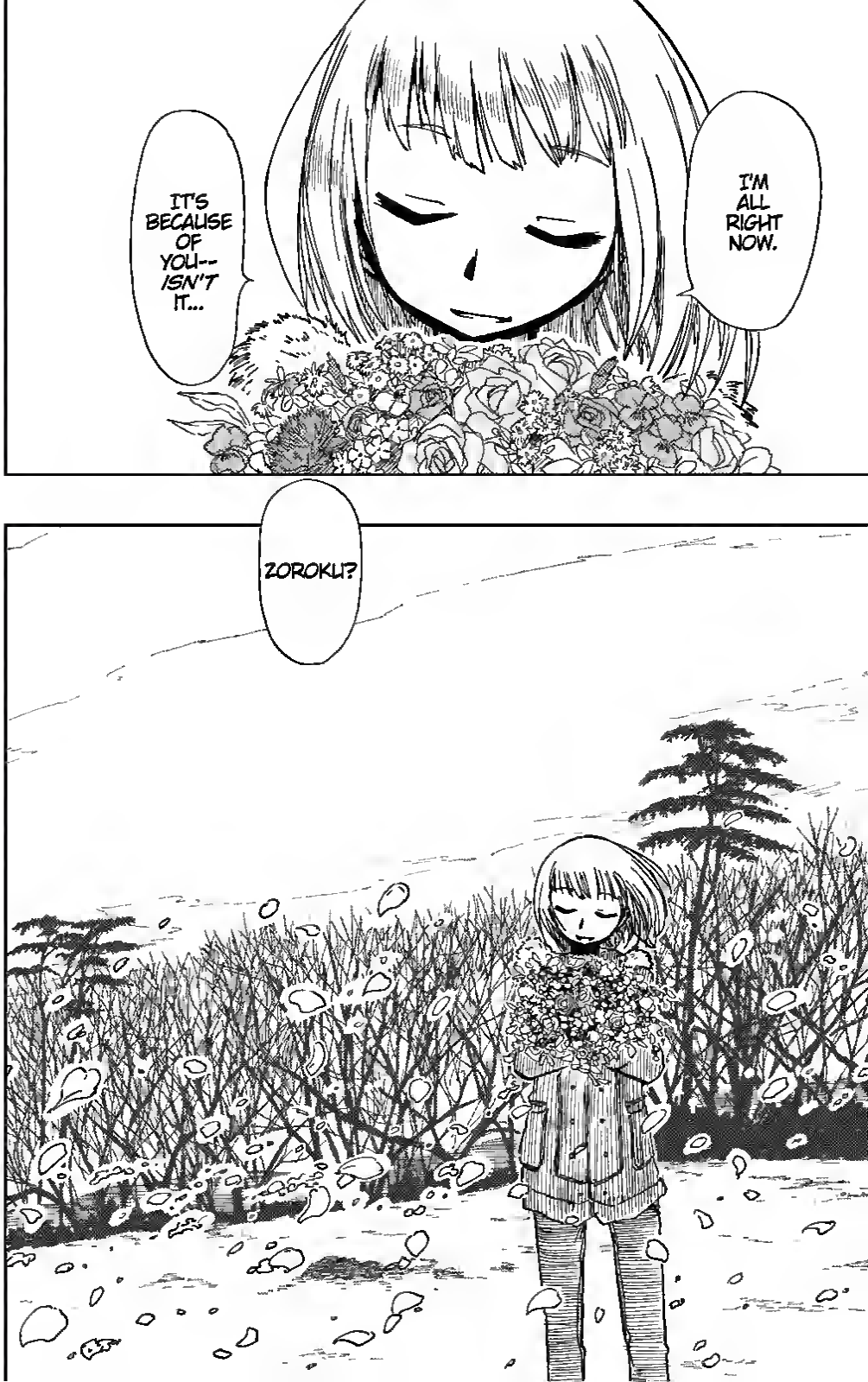




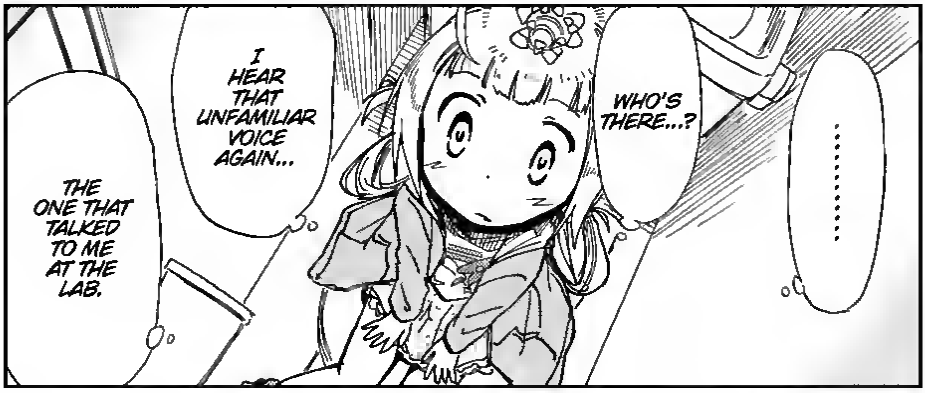


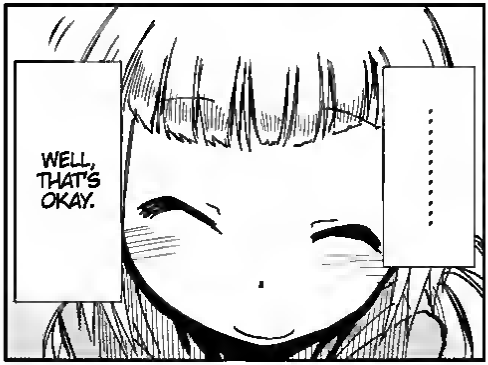


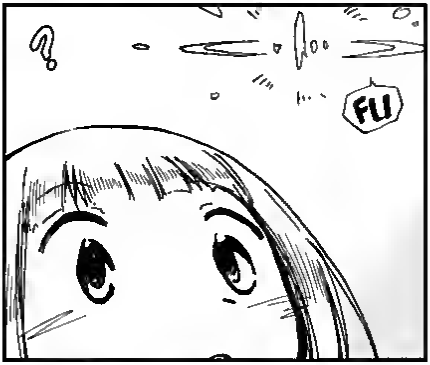

BRRR...
PLOP
PACH!
IF I DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION, MY IMAGINATION WOULD *LEAK* INTO THE REAL WORLD AND REMAKE IT.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WAS.
AT THE TIME, THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN MY IMAGINARY WORLD AND THE REAL WORLD WERE NOT VERY WELL DEFINED.
IN SOME WAYS, *ALL* CHILDREN ARE LIKE THAT.
WOOO...
TI!!!!INKLE


I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU-- ISN'T IT...
ZOROKU?

AND YOU WILL TREASURE ALL OF IT.
YOU'LL CRY A LOT, LAUGH A LOT, AND EVEN GET ANGRY.
YOU WILL ENCOUNTER MANY THINGS FROM NOW ON...
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, YOU KNOW...


I HEAR THAT UNFAMILIAR VOICE AGAIN...
WHO'S THERE...?
.....
THE ONE THAT TALKED TO ME AT THE LAB.


WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
.....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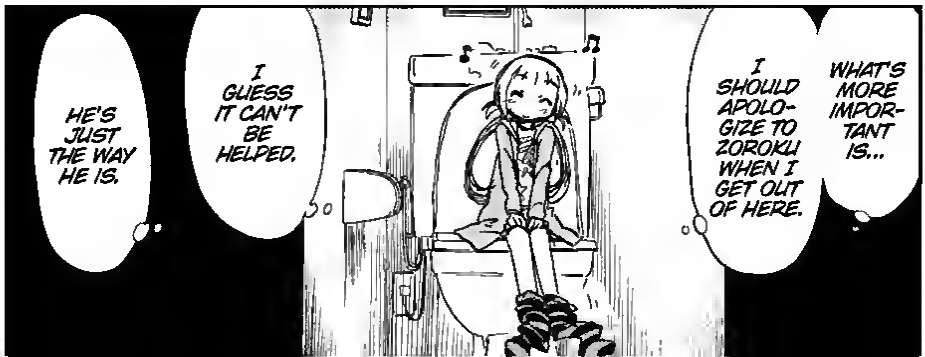
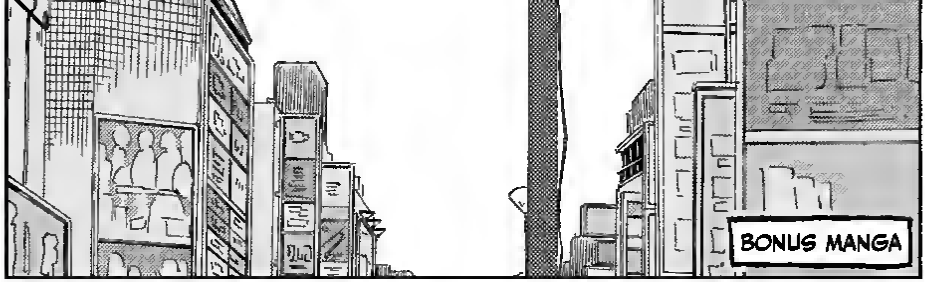

HE'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO ZOROKU WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE.
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS...

IT'S THE STORY OF MY FAMILY.

IT'S IRREPLACE-ABLE.

THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS...

Alice & Zoroku


BONUS MANGA

FIDGET
FIDGET
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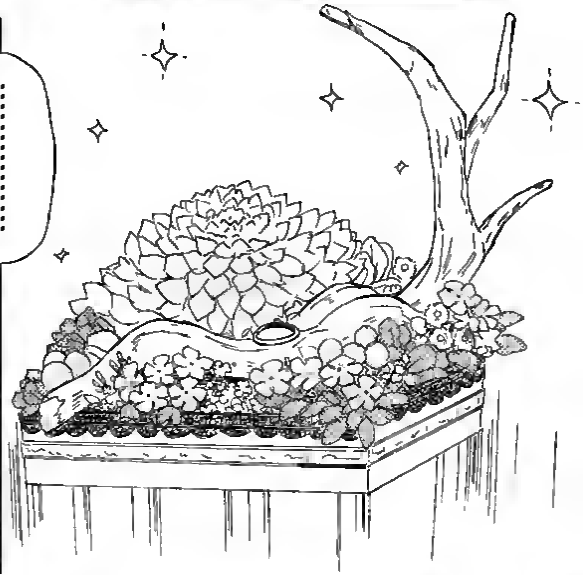
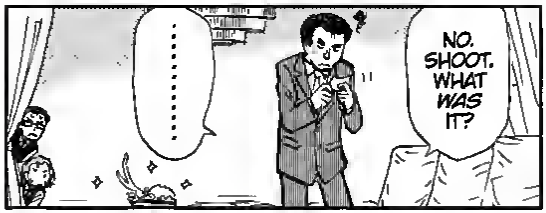
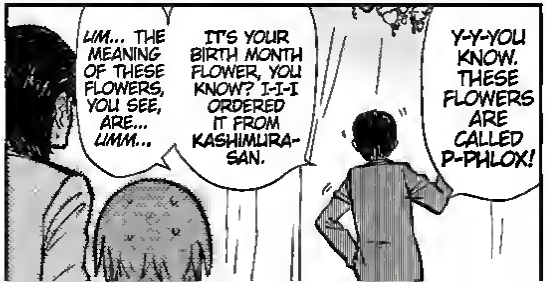



NO. SHOOT. WHAT WAS IT?

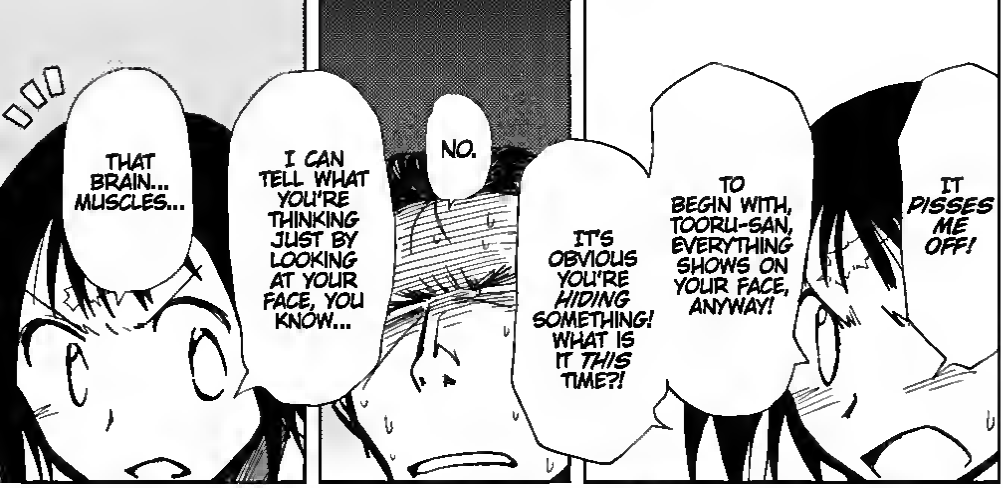
SIT
AH!
AHH
LURCH
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

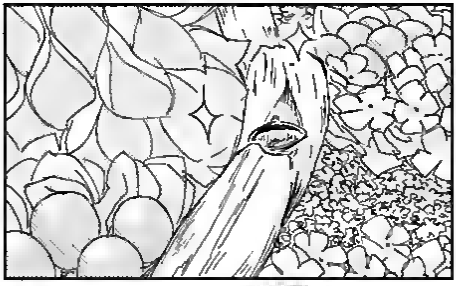

UMM... THE MEANING OF THESE FLOWERS, YOU SEE, ARE... UMM...
IT'S YOUR BIRTH MONTH FLOWER, YOU KNOW? I-I-I ORDERED IT FROM KASHIMURA-SAN.
Y-Y-YOU KNOW. THESE FLOWERS ARE CALLED P-PHLOX!

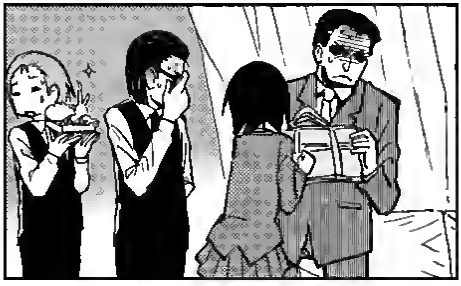
THESE FLOWERS, ARE YOU KNOW, UMM...
THAT.
YOU KNOW-- WHAT'S THAT CALLED? THESE FLOWERS ARE, YOU KNOW, THAT. THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MEET AT 7 P.M., THEN WE'D BETTER GO SOON...
YES, SIR.
YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT TODAY, DID YOU? GUYS?!
SH... SHUT UP!! I KNOW ALREADY!
BA-DAH!
BA-DAH!
BA-DAH!
I'M SORRY, SAWAKI-SAN, BUT ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME?
THUUNK
WHOA!!
SAWAKI-SAN?
I'M NOT!
I'M NOT NERVOUS, YOU KNOW!
I KNOW AL-READY!
WHAAT...?! ARGH!!
YEAH, BOSS! YOU'RE GOOD! YOU LOOK GREAT!
S-SAWAKI-SAN! SAWAKI-SAN! YOU FORGOT THE FLOWERS!
HEY! SHOOT! THE CAR! GET THE CAR!
OH, SHOOT! I FORGOT MY LINES AGAIN!
I KNOW !!!
YES!
TH-WHAM
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET AT THE RES-TAURANT, RIGHT? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
O-OH, CHIKA, YOU...
OH...
WHY?
WHOA!!!
AAH! AAH!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO *WEIRD* LATELY, TOORU-SAN. IT'S A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS.
YOU DON'T LOOK ME IN THE EYES AT HOME, AND WHEN I TALK TO YOU, YOU JUST TRY TO LEAVE.
AND JUST NOW WHEN I BUMPED INTO YOU ON THE STREET... YOU IGNORED ME!
W-WELL, YOU KNOW THAT'S...
Y-YOU WERE WITH YOUR FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL, WEREN'T YOU?
SO *WHAT?*
MY FRIENDS ALL KNOW, YOU KNOW! THAT PAPA'S A ●●● BOSS AND HE'S BEEN MURDERED! THEY EVEN KNOW I'VE BEEN LIVING AT YOUR HOUSE, TOORU-SAN!
I'M NOT *EMBARRASSED* ABOUT IT!
I...
SWEAT
SWEAT SWEAT
I GOT IT.
I'M SORRY, CHIKA, BUT HERE.
HEY! ARE YOU TRYING TO DO SOMETHING DANGEROUS AGAIN?
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS *LAST* TIME, TOO.
RIGHT WHEN I STARTED LIVING AT YOUR PLACE, TOORU-SAN, YOU GOT ALL WEIRD ALL OF A SUDDEN AND ASKED ME OUT TO DINNER.
!
AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU WERE REALLY SERIOUSLY HURT AND CAME HOME ALL BLOODY...
YOU...
I *TOLD* YOU--YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE REVENGE FOR PAPA.
SWISH
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT! PAPA AND YOU-- *EVERY-ONE'S* LIKE THAT!
YOU JUST DECIDE THINGS WITHOUT ME, AND THEN YOU *DISAP-PEAR!*
THUMP
SO YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T EVEN *WORRY?!*
EXCUSE ME, CHIKA-SAN, YOU KNOW SAWAKI-SAN...


THAT BRAIN... MUSCLES...
I CAN TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING JUST BY LOOKING AT YOUR FACE, YOU KNOW...
NO.
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
TO BEGIN WITH, TOORU-SAN, EVERYTHING SHOWS ON YOUR FACE, ANYWAY!
IT PISSES ME OFF!





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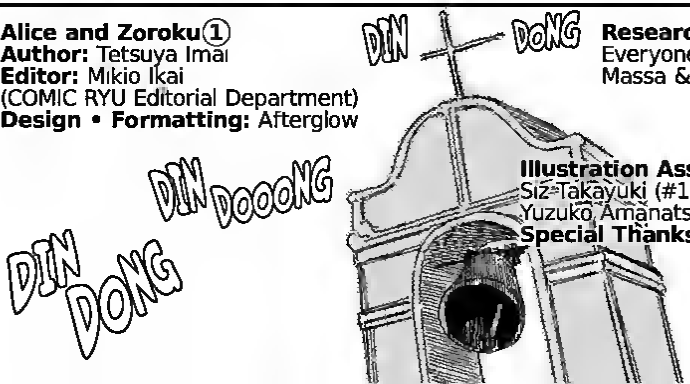

TETSUYA IMAI
Presents
Alice & Zoroku
1

Computer
For email, playing music, etc.
Work Benches
You can move them wherever you want.
Work Desk
The shelves and desks in this room were made by the people who work here.
Facuet
Hot and cold water. This gets a lot of use.
Vases
Large and small, in various shapes, colors, and materials.
Cooler
Flowers are kept cool in order to bloom nicely by the date required for weddings and other events.
Large Vases, etc.
The largest vases, along with raw materials and all sorts of odds and ends.
Toilet
Self explanatory.

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Alice & Zoroku

story and art by **TETSUYA IMAI**

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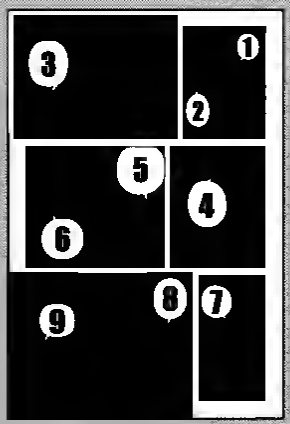
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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Sana possesses an unbelievable power: she can turn imagination into reality! But as a young girl who only just escaped from the ominous "Laboratory," she's never experienced the "Outside world" before. She barely even knows how to use her powers! But just when she's about to give up, Sana meets Zoroku, a stubborn, old Japanese man. He believes that people should always "do the right thing"—psychic powers or no! Sana's destiny is about to change in a *big* way...

Rated: TEEN

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